

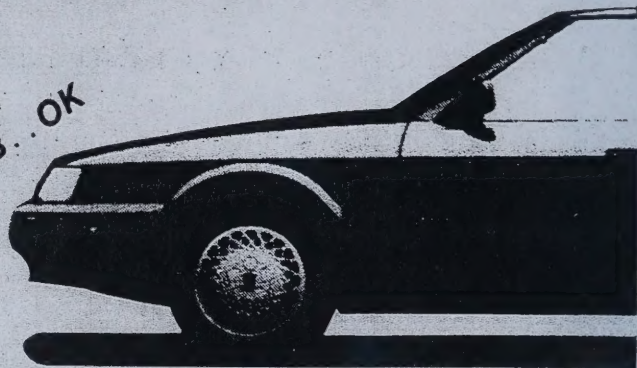


**BLK**



# TIRED OF BEING TURNED DOWN?

BAD CREDIT...OK  
NO CREDIT...OK  
BANKRUPTCY...OK  
NO CO-SIGNER...OK  
CREDIT PROBLEMS...OK  
CHARGE OFFS...OK  
NEW ON THE JOB...OK

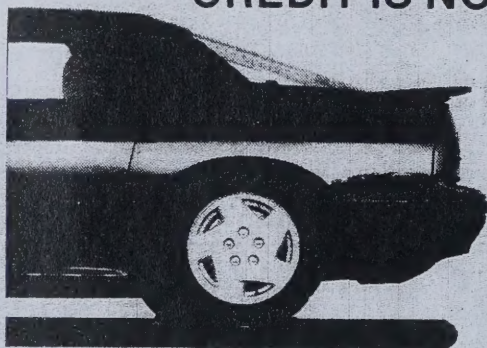


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# December Calendar of Events

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Please let BLK know of any events that should be added to this Calendar. The Calendar is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are listed in the Community Directory.

---

## Sunday

### 4

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Women's Tea Dance. 4-8 p.m. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-734-8849. \$3 admission.

---

## Monday

### 5

---

Brownlie Hospice Opening. 9:30 a.m. AIDS Hospice Foundation, 213-250-4200, ext. 206.

---

## Tuesday

### 6

---

Emergency Community Meeting to discuss AIDS services being provided at County-USC Hospital. 7:30 p.m. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-936-4949.

---

## Thursday

### 8

---

Women's Research Committee Meeting. 7 p.m. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-936-4949.

---

## Saturday

### 10

---

Volunteer Orientation to train volunteers to work with the Minority AIDS Project. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-936-4949.

---

## Sunday

### 11

---

"Hey Brothers...Information, Please." AIDS information workshop. Open question and answer session with Dr. Andrew M. Faulk. 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-936-4949.



---

# Wednesday 14

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Reversed role lip-syncing party. 9 p.m. \$5 admission will be donated to Minority AIDS Project. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-734-8849.

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# Saturday 17

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Haitian-themed party to benefit the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. 213-667-2549.

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# Sunday 18

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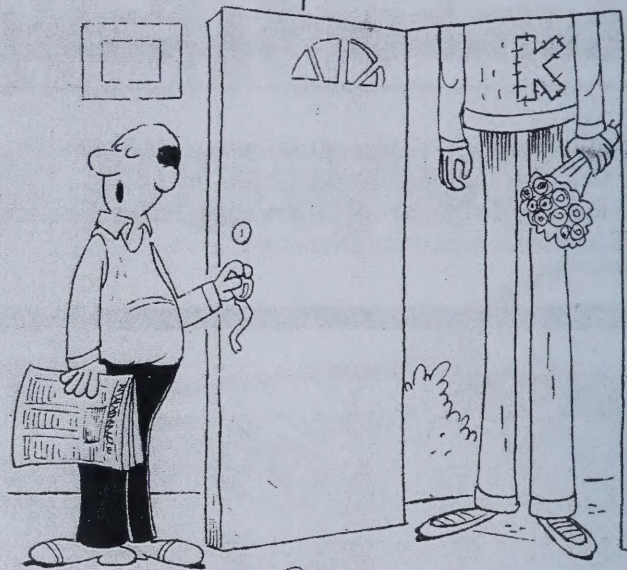
Women's Tea Dance. 4-8 p.m. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-734-8849. \$3 admission.

---

# Saturday 31

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Watch Meeting Service. 10:30 p.m. Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-936-4949.



GERALD  
DYES

Shirley, not only is our son gay,  
but the guy he's seeing is black.

---

## BLK

Number 1

Edited and published by Alan Bell, with lots of help and support from (in alphabetical order) Gene Cornelius, L. Paul Davis, Ron Grayson, Chi Hughes, Carlton McJimpson, Lenore Rivers, Charles Stewart and Phill Wilson.

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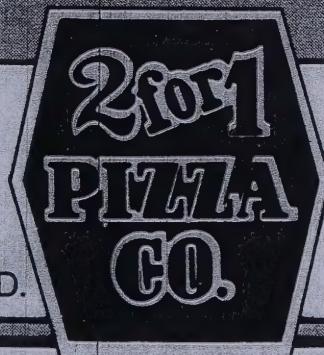
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# Community News

## Brownlie Hospice Opens December 5

A year long effort of planning, renovation and preparation will pay off December 5, 1988 as the AIDS Hospice Foundation opens its first facility, the Chris Brownlie Hospice. The 25-bed residence for people with AIDS nearing the final stages of life, will be the first of its kind in Southern California.

In celebration of the much awaited opening, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 9:30 a.m. and is expected to attract local politicians and community members. A special plaque will be presented by County Supervisor Ed Edelman.

The Chris Brownlie Hospice, named after a community activist diagnosed with AIDS in February 1987, is the first of five such projects planned by AHF. AHF does not view its hospice as a place for people to go to die, but a place as close to homelike as medically possible, where one can go to receive or maintain the quality of life that is sometimes a second consideration in the care for people with AIDS.

Support from the community has included everything from monetary donations to medical supplies to artwork to volunteers willing to lend a hand once the hospice begins accepting residents.

More information on the Brownlie Hospice ribbon-cutting or the AIDS Hospice Foundation's future projects can be obtained by calling 213-250-4200, ext. 206. Volunteer support is always welcome.

## 90 Attend 'Fences' to Raise Conference \$

Over 90 supporters of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum attended a benefit performance of *Fences* starring James Earl Jones December 1, 1988. Proceeds of over \$600 went to help defray the expenses of the 1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference.

This is the second theater party fundraiser the Forum has sponsored. Over \$600 was also raised earlier this summer at benefit performance of *The Colored Museum*. Following the show, attendees were treated to a private cast party.

## Women's Committee Needs Volunteers

The Women's Research Committee of the Minority AIDS Project will hold a planning meeting Thursday, December 8, 1988 at 7 p.m. The group is interested in locating at least three more women interested in joining a community advisory board to help develop and review AIDS education and information materials.

The committee is especially interested in locating women from targeted groups such as nail shop employees and battered women, but would like to hear from all interested women. For more information, call Barbara Walker at the Minority AIDS Project, 213-936-4949.

A large, bold, black rectangular box containing the letters "BLK" in a white, sans-serif font.





**Sylvester**





**Whoopi Goldberg**



# Whoopi Goldberg, Sylvester to Receive Awards at Forum Leadership Conference in February

Whoopi Goldberg will receive the Frederick Garnett Memorial Award and Sylvester will receive the James Baldwin Memorial Arts and Letters Award at the 1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. The confab, which is sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, will be held February 17-20, 1989 in Los Angeles.

Goldberg made per professional debut at the age of eight, performing at New York's Hudson Guild Theatre. In 1974, she helped found the San Diego Repertory Theatre, starring in the company's productions of Brecht's *Mother Courage*, and Marsha Norman's *Getting Out*. Later, Goldberg moved to San Francisco, joining Berkeley's Blake Street Hawkeye Theatre, where she developed the characters that later became the basis of her one-woman show, *The Spook Show*.

In 1984, Mike Nichols brought her act to Broadway. Her series of fully-developed character sketches caused an immediate sensation, and the show was produced for cable television the following year.

Her performance as Celie in *The Color Purple* earned her an Academy Award nomination as Best Actress. She also received a Gold Globe Award from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and an Image Award from the NAACP. Goldberg's credits since then include *Jumpin' Jack Flash*, *Burglar*, *Fatal Beauty* and *Clara's Heart*. She will soon be seen in *Homer and Eddie*.

Goldberg won a Grammy Award for the Best Comedy Album of 1985 for the recording of her Broadway show. She also received an Emmy Nomination for her guest appearance on *Moonlighting* during the 1985-86 season. This spring, Goldberg took her one-woman show, *Living on the Edge of Chaos*, on a 20-city tour. In August, her HBO special, *Fontaine - Why Am I Straight?* aired live, and a record album based on that special was issued in late August.

Like so many black singers, Sylvester learned his craft in church. He started at the Palm Lane Church of God and Christ in Los Angeles, and

soon was performing at gospel conventions throughout California. During this period, his showstopper was an interpretation of Aretha Franklin's "Never Grow Old," the first record by the woman who was to remain Sylvester's idol and major influence. Already, Sylvester was being groomed for divadom.

Sylvester made is Cockettes (yes, Cockettes!) debut in 1970 as an island mammy in *Hollywood Babylon* wearing a '30s bias-cut dress and singing "Big City Blues." For the next year, Sylvester played crucial roles in ever more elaborate and deranged Cockettes stage shows. Opening for the Cockettes' New York debut in 1971 was Sylvester and the Hot Band, a white guitar group fronted by the singer in a new glitter incarnation. It was about this Cockettes performance that Gore Vidal made the often-quoted statement, "Having no talent is no longer enough."

When Sylvester took on disco, he found the music that his voice was made for. The falsetto singer suddenly went from drag infamy to hit records without giving up one gown. "Dance Disco Heat" and "You Make Me feel (Mighty Real)" moved up the pop charts like rockets. Sylvester and his background singers, Two Tons O' Fun, were named the true Queens of Disco by the gay population.

When the disco market crashed, Fantasy Records forced Sylvester to sound more "black and straight" resulting in the 1980 release, "Sell My Soul," and the 1981 release, "Too Hot To Sleep," neither of which found an audience.

Sylvester has AIDS. He attended the 1988 San Francisco Gay Pride March marching with the People With AIDS group from a wheelchair. In this first public acknowledgment of his illness, the transition from glamour maven to outpatient made him almost unrecognizable.

For almost 20 years, Sylvester has been an icon of San Francisco nightlife: outrageous, bold proud. Today, Sylvester is a symbol of a totally different San Francisco—a gay man struggling to stay alive.



# Community Directory

Please let BLK know of any changes or additions that should be made to this Community Directory.

## BARS AND BATHS

Annex\*

835 S. LaBrea Ave.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-671-7323

Basgo's\*

3909 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-664-1929

Caper Room

244 S. Market St.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-677-0403

Catch One

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-1159

Cottage

5050 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-437-7705

Horizon

3416 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
213-734-6233

Jewel's Room

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-1159

Joly's

117 S. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
213-480-8567

Midtowne Spa

615 S. Kohler St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
213-680-1838

Study\*

1723 N. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-464-9551

Zone

4216 Melrose Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-660-0889

\*Integrated

## ORGANIZATIONS

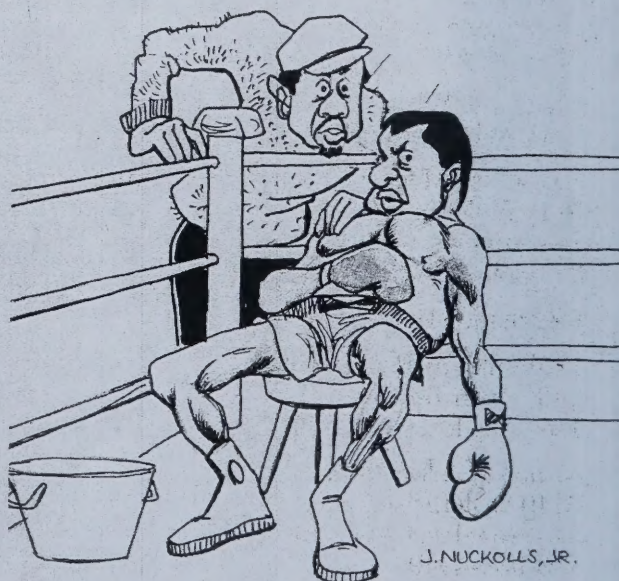
Alcoholics Anonymous

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 6 p.m.

Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum  
Box 29812

Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-667-2549

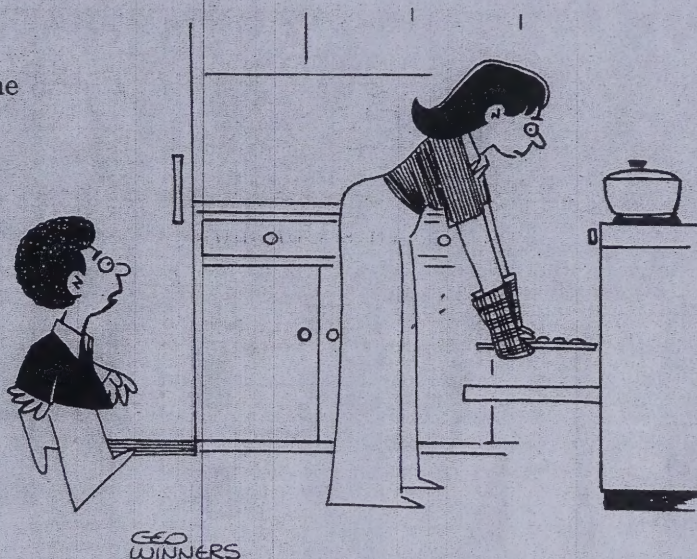
Planning Meetings Saturdays Noon



Well. So much for your  
black-homos-can't-fight theory.



Hey, Mom. Why won't Sis tell me  
about Makeda?



Geo  
Winners

Black Gay Men's Rap Group  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-274-3398  
1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

Black Jack  
Box 83515  
Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515  
213-338-1516

Black Lesbians Support Group (Connexus)  
213-859-3960

Black and White Men Together  
Los Angeles Chapter  
Box 29812  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
213-664-4716

Black and White Men Together  
National Organization

Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-664-0234, 213-274-3398

Gentlemen Concerned

Lesbian/Gay People of Color  
1435 Avon Terrace  
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Minority AIDS Project  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949

Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. Support Group for HIV +,  
ARC, and AIDS (Held at Midway Hospital,  
4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente)

National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays  
Box 2490  
Washington, DC 20013  
202-265-7117

United Fellowship Church  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship Service, Wednesdays  
7 p.m. Bible Study, Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir  
Rehearsal

Watts Health Foundation  
4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B  
Compton, CA 90221  
213-639-3068

Womyn of Colors  
1213 N. Highland Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90038  
213-464-7400

X-Calibre Social Club  
9001 Keith Ave.  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
213-274-3398



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24-year-old, 5'7", small athletic build, seeks relationship with caring, intelligent, non-effeminate man. Write E. Christo, Box 71123, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

Sincere GBM, age 26, 6'5", 215 lbs., looking for a good "safe" friend. Masculine types of close or similar stature please respond. If you love tennis, good music, and the movies, plus the companionship of another gay brother, write Michael J., 7549 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

Attractive, independent, well-bred GBM, 22 yrs., 6'1½", 170 lbs., ethnic, NYC-bred, Chi-town born. Into Grace Jones, house music, KKKO and tall, masculine, blk-blk basketball boys. Call Ltyrone. 818-760-8216.

Hot, attractive, 39-year-old male, outgoing and intelligent, seeks masculine, mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Call C.B., 714-682-4685, Riverside, California.

Very good looking black gay male seeking good looking male for honest intimate relationship. Please send photo and letter to: Mr. E. Anderson, 7727 Lankershim Blvd. #253, N. Hollywood, Calif. 91605. Will return photo.

Hot, 37 year-old-man, good-looking, intelligent. Looking for that one special person. Jay. 213-667-0527.

The Museum of Phallic Science welcomes your donation of used magazines, videos, films, toys, photos, stories, reports, articles, etc. pertaining to the phallus/penis. Send to: C.P.S., Inc., Box 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90028. Please make any cash donations. Cash only please.

Tender Ronie, 24 and outgoing. Looking for a special friend who is safe, masculine and dominating. If interested, call Ronie at 213-256-6832. Midnight to 6:30 a.m.

Black male, age 35, 5'10", 150 lbs., solid build, in excellent health, looking to meet other who like movies and spending romantic safe times together. Give me a call at 213-298-0753. My name is Ron Ford aka Sweet Sagittarius.

Blk man w/ ocean vu vacation timeshare condo for sale. Must sell quickly. Keith at 213-305-7032.

Good looking black male body-builder, 6'2", 180 lbs. wishes to meet masculine black man for hot safe sessions. Reply P.O. Box 2095, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-2095.

Attractive GBM, 26, 5'7", 169 lbs., interested in meeting husky men for lasting relationship or friendship. Hobbies include music, sports, romantic times, summer outings. Write Jeff, 4106 Palmwood Dr. #3, Los Angeles, CA 90008.

Black, masculine, athletic, educated male, 5'11", 185 lbs., 38 seeks masculine, dominating mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Morning calls or leave message. Jay Jay 714-786-3258. Or write 3800 Parkview Lane #28B, Irvine, CA 92715.

Black male, age 27, 5'10", solid build, is seeking an individual in good physical shape. Must be mature and of a non-effeminate nature. Individual must be into intense jack-off and or mutual masturbation only. Call 213-750-8301 and leave message.

# December



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ANY OTHER**

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I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

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First 10 words (Free to everyone, except commercial enterprises) .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional words at 25 cents per word .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total ad cost .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of insertions .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Special**

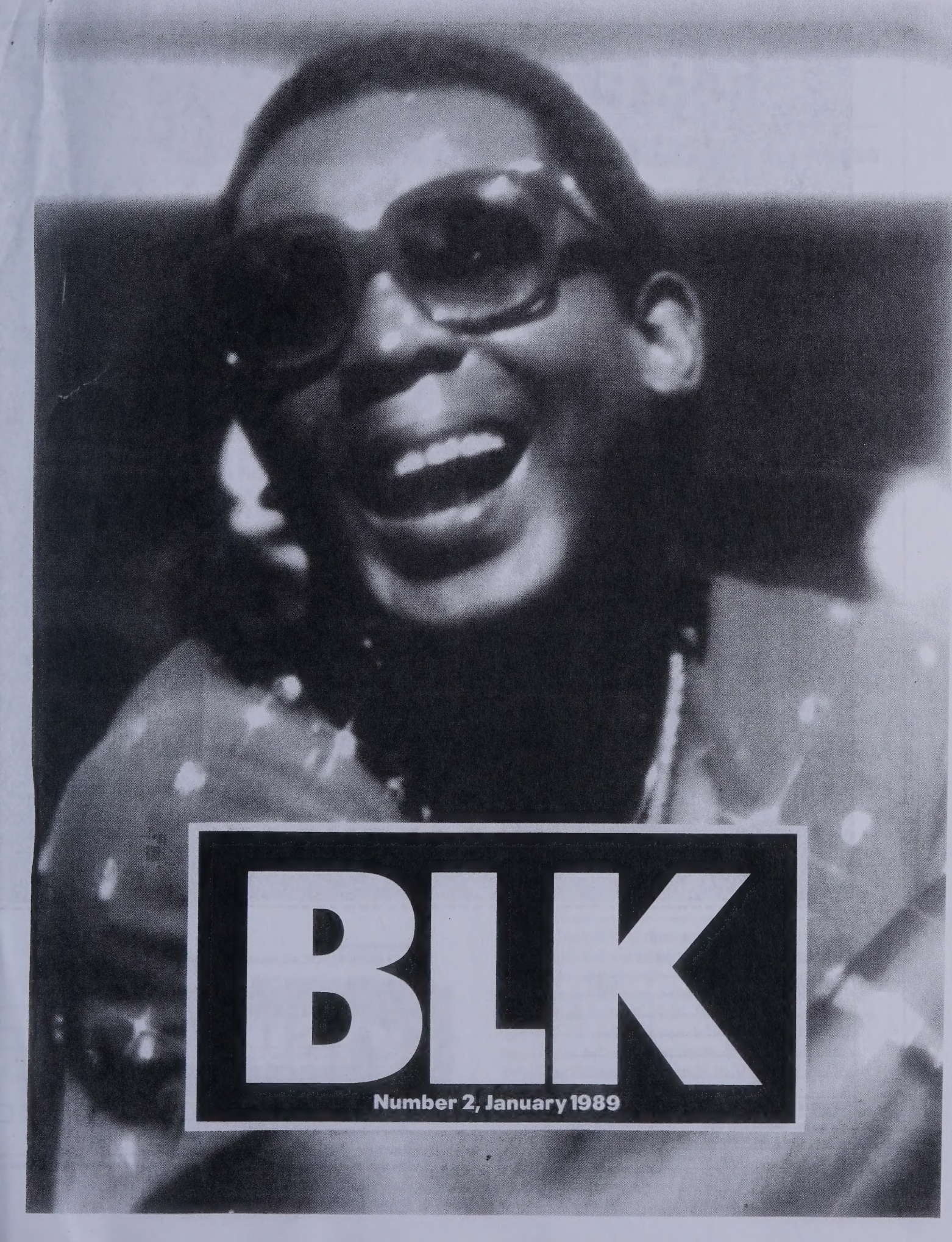
from Monday thru Thursday  
from 12 noon to 12 midnight  
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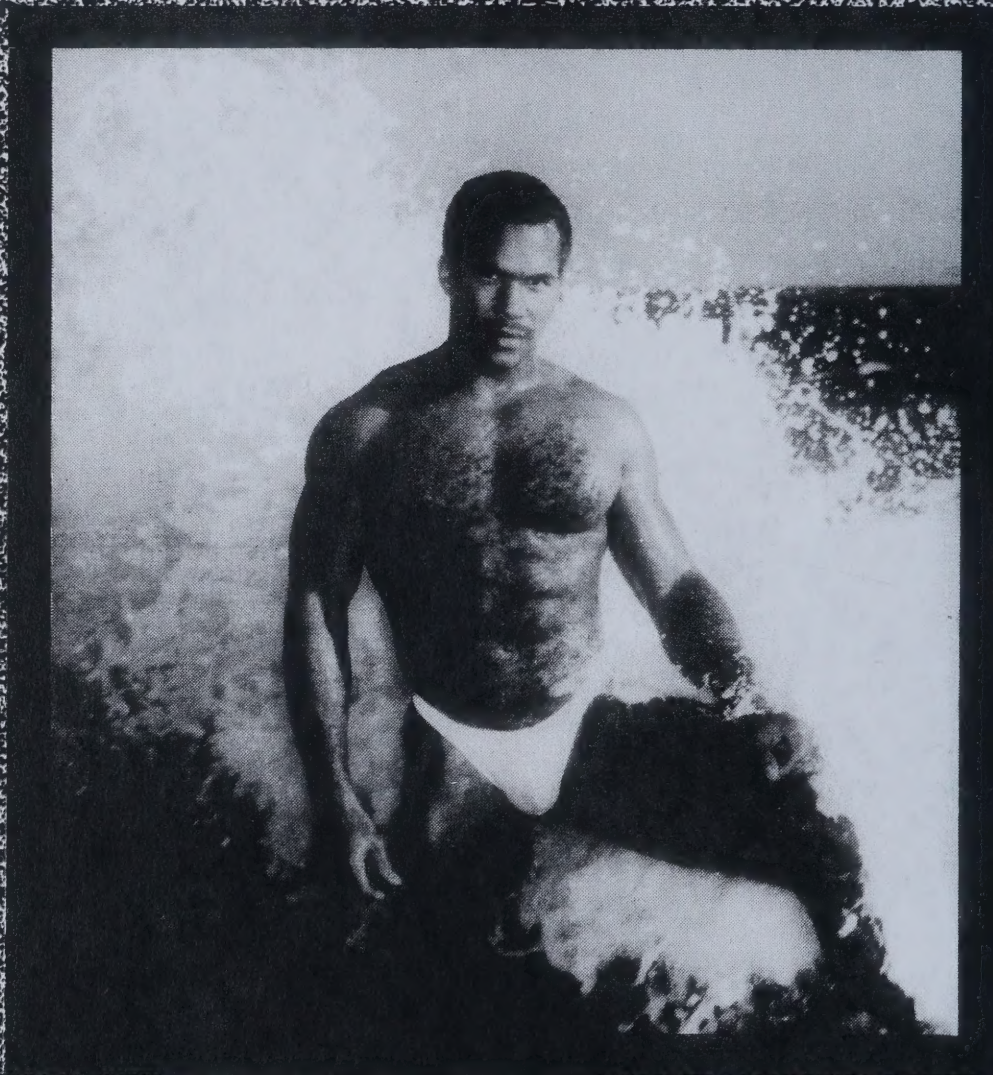


# BLK

Number 2, January 1989



# THE BODY BLACK



## 1989 CALENDAR

**SUGGESTED RETAIL (US) \$9.95**

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Credit Card Number

(Billing will appear as Schwarzwald)

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The Body Black is a Registered Trademark.

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# January Calendar of Events

Please let BLK know of any events that should be added to this Calendar. The Calendar is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are listed in the Community Directory.

## Sunday 8

Home-Cooked Chicken and Meatloaf Dinner Sale. Includes corn bread, plus choice of entree, vegetable and starch. Sold by the Women's Committee of United Fellowship Church, 3-7 p.m. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-734-8849. Free delivery within 5 mile radius for 4 dinners or more. \$5 each, 50 cents extra for dessert. Proceeds to Minority AIDS Project.

## Sunday 15

Minority AIDS Project Annual Luv Pop Drive begins. Candy sale runs through February 14. \$1 donation.

# January

## Monday 16

The Women's Committee of United Fellowship Church is sponsoring a celebration in honor of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The evening will include poetry reading, an art exhibit and quiet music. 7-10 p.m. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-734-8849. No cover charge.

## 20

Educating the Community on AIDS. A door-to-door walk through Nickerson Gardens with Maxine Waters, Rev. Carl Bean, plus selected Minority AIDS Project staff members, board members and volunteers. Group will distribute AIDS information including how it is caught, how it is passed on, testing, counseling and what to do if an individual tests positive. 1 p.m. 1590 E. 114th St., Los Angeles, CA. Near Imperial and Compton Aves.

## Sunday 22

Home-Cooked Chicken and Meatloaf Dinner Sale. Includes corn bread, plus choice of entree, vegetable and starch. Sold by the Women's Committee of United Fellowship Church, 3-7 p.m. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 213-734-8849. Free delivery within 5 mile radius for 4 dinners or more. \$5 each, 50 cents extra for dessert. Proceeds to Minority AIDS Project.



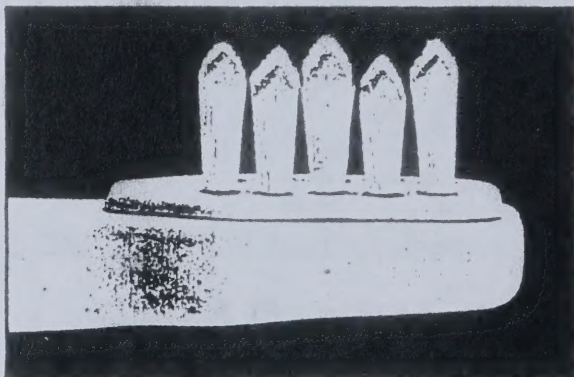
# How Safe Is Oral Sex?

*Proposed new guidelines describe oral sex without ejaculation as a 'lower-risk' activity*

**by Richard Goldstein**

Oral sex has traditionally been regarded as icing on the cake. But for many people these days, it is the cake—or, at least, as far as they're willing to go without a condom. With the advent of AIDS, oral sex has taken on a certain urgency.

Columbia University epidemiologist John Martin, who has been studying the response to AIDS among a large group of gay men in New York, says fellatio is a "highly preserved activity" among them. Thirty percent of the men in Martin's study use condoms when they have anal sex. Another 50 percent have stopped having anal sex entirely. But about 80 percent continue to have oral sex,



although less frequently and with fewer partners. Condoms are seldom used in this activity because most gay men who perform fellatio regard it as safe, so long as there is no ejaculation.

Are they right?

That depends on what you regard as hazardous. "The basic finding is that oral sex has no epidemiological level," says Martin. "But there's clearly a risk for an individual under certain circumstances." What those circumstances are remains unclear: Little is known conclusively about the impact of bleeding gums or sores in the

mouth, and the efficacy of avoiding ejaculation or menstrual blood.

But there are some credible cases of HIV transmission in gay men who say they've had only oral sex. In a major study, funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one out of 150 men whose only unprotected sexual activity was fellatio became infected over a three-year period. That represents "an extremely low risk," says Roger Detels, who conducted the study. In contrast, men who had unprotected anal sex were 32 times as likely to become infected with HIV.

*But there is that exceptional case.* Harold Jaffe, chief of epidemiology in the Centers for Disease Control's AIDS Program, is aware of "a handful" of men who became infected after performing fellatio. "We think it's pretty rare [that oral sex can transmit HIV]," Jaffe admits. "But it can happen."

As new information is assimilated, the standards of sexual safety appear to be shifting, especially in regard to oral sex. The Canadian AIDS Society, a government-funded consortium of community groups, is about to issue new guidelines that downgrade the danger of oral sex to "low or minimal risk." That decision carries more weight than it might in the States, because the Canadian government itself has never issued safe sex guidelines.

Meanwhile, in New York, Gay Men's Health Crisis is also revising its guidelines, which presently advise: "For anal, vaginal, or oral sex, always use a condom." The new guidelines, which are still being drafted, describe fellatio—without ejaculating in the mouth—as a "lower-risk" activity. But GMHC cautions that HIV "may be transmitted" during oral sex, especially if there are cuts or abrasions in the mouth or throat. They advise against brushing or flossing the teeth be-



fore or after oral sex, and recommend condoms "for the greatest protection while sucking."

What about cunnilingus?

The proposed GMHC guidelines say that, too, is a lower-risk activity, providing there's no contact with menstrual blood. (For maximum protection, GMHC recommends latex barriers, such as dental dams.) The HIV has been found in vaginal secretions, and sexual transmission of HIV from women to both men and women has been documented, little is known about the epidemiological significance of cunnilingus. Since few heterosexuals confine themselves to that activity, it's difficult to isolate in studies of heterosexual transmission. And federal researchers have paid scant attention to lesbians and AIDS. "We have no data at all on cunnilingus," Jaffe admits. "All of it comes from gay men."

Some data can be applied across the board, but here, too, the findings are less than conclusive. Several experiments have shown that saliva kills HIV—at least in the test tube—and that's good news, because the organisms that cause other sexually transmitted diseases, such as hepatitis and mononucleosis, survive in the mouth. On the other hand, there is evidence (from experiments on animals) that HIV can be transmitted through freshly brushed gums. It may be difficult to detect small sores or bleeding in the mouth, and the back of the throat has a high density of white blood cells, which attract and harbor HIV. Even a minor vaginal infection might make cunnilingus riskier. And no one can say whether simply avoiding ejaculation is sufficient protection in fellatio, because the virus may be present in pre-ejaculatory fluid. Can HIV in pre-cum be transmitted as efficiently as in semen? "I don't know anything about that," Jaffe says.

Given these uncertainties, the safest way to have oral sex is still with a barrier: dental dams, condoms, or those latex sheaths known as "stubs," which fit snugly over the head of the penis, allowing greater contact with flesh. (Remember: Stubs are useless if you ejaculate.) But no one can deny that, when it comes to oral sex, these precautions are relatively unpleasant and perhaps unnecessary. We could learn more about this basic element in the erotic repertoire, but there are reasons why such research is scant that have little to do with the limits of science. After all, oral sex is sodomy, and there are powerful people who think that, AIDS or no, it ought to be forsaken—though many would regard that as the most unnatural act of all.

*Richard Goldstein writes for the Village Voice, where this article originally appeared.*

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# Remembering Sylvester

*The icon of a whole generation of gay men passed away  
December 16, 1988*

**by Alan Bell**





Funny thing about Sylvester. Everybody liked his music. Even the lords of macho whose newspaper ads reject "fats, fems and blacks." The more political among us would prefer to think it was because he was open about his sexuality, and that's likely part of it. But most of it was probably his ability to make us loose it on the dance floor. Changing musical styles aside, gay men can't seem to get the pulse beat of the seventies out of their blood. The contagion is incurable; we'll test positive for disco (excuse me, *dance* music) forever.

Sylvester realized he had AIDS in 1986, but didn't immediately take the test. "It's not that I didn't want to think the worst," he said, "because I've been a queen long enough. I've been gay for 41 years—I'm 41 years old. I didn't need to take the AIDS antibody test. I know what I've done. Why would I waste those \$90 when I could go shopping?"

Always completely open and straightforward about his sexuality, Sylvester was a champion fundraiser for many AIDS causes in dozens of cities across the U.S., Europe and Australia. Even after it became fashionable to do AIDS benefits, Sylvester still found time to help those in the more remote areas of the country, without fanfare or publicity for himself.

Nevertheless, Sylvester was to receive the James Baldwin Memorial Arts and Letters Award at the 1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference to be held in Los Angeles next month.

Sylvester's first public acknowledgement of the disease came in 1988 when he joined the People with AIDS group in the San Francisco Gay Pride March. He attended in a wheelchair. Then, as well as for the two previous decades, as well as now in death, Sylvester was emblematic of the out-front gay community.

Sylvester James grew up in Los Angeles, singing at the Palm Lane Church of God and Christ and performing at gospel conventions around California. The Pentecostal church was also where Sylvester had his first homosexual experience. "I was abused by an evangelist," Sylvester told Barry Walters for an article in the *San Francisco Examiner*. "He really did a number on me, but it never made me crazy. But you see, I was a queen even back then, so it didn't bother me. I rather liked it."

During his flamboyant career, Sylvester sang at discos across the nation and in Europe. Before appearing on his own, he performed in wildly extravagant women's clothes with the Cockettes, a group of hip female impersonators. He made his

Cockette debut in 1970 as an island mammy in "Hollywood Babylon" wearing a '30s bias-cut dress and singing "Big City Blues."

Sylvester began his recording career in 1972 with the release of *Lights Out*, an album that included the Pointer Sisters as backup. *Bazaar* and *Scratch Me* followed. With the release of *Sylvester* and *Step II*, Sylvester's success skyrocketed. He collected a gold LP as well as the number one hits "Dance (Disco Heat)" and "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)." Sylvester was backed on these by Martha Wash and Izora Rhodes, better known as Two Tons O' Fun.

Sylvester became one of the seventies' most original and prolific artists, breaking into the eighties with a memorable SRO concert at San Francisco's Opera House complete with the proclamation of March 11 as "Sylvester Day." A live album that gave us "Can't Stop Dancing" and "You Are My Friend" followed.

His "Do You Wanna Funk," co-written with Patrick Cowley, became a smash single, and was heard in Eddie Murphy's *Trading Places* as well as being selected as a Jane Fonda workout cut.

He released *All I Need* in 1982 which yielded the dance hits, "Don't Stop" and "Hard Up." After a year of touring around the United States in Europe, Sylvester released *Call Me*, which included "Two Late," "Good Feelin'," "Trouble in Paradise" and "Band of Gold." *M-1015* was the followup, with hits "Rock the Box" and "Take Me to Heaven." In 1986, he released *Mutual Attraction* which included the club hit, "Someone Like You." Recording sessions for the next album were postponed as Sylvester was hospitalized with pneumonia and diagnosed with AIDS.

Though Sylvester had traveled through fame and fortune, his mounting medical expenses left him nearly broke. To help raise cash quickly, just this month, Megatone Records released *12 by 12: The Sylvester Collection*, a "greatest hits" album of his most popular dance singles.

Sylvester died the morning of December 16 at his Castro area home in San Francisco of complications from AIDS. His mother, Letha Hurd of Los Angeles, was with him at the time of death. He was 42. In addition to his mother, Sylvester is survived by several brothers and sisters.

A memorial service was held December 19 at the Love Center in Oakland. The family has suggested that memorial donations be made in Sylvester's name to either: AIDS Emergency Fund, 1550 California St. #7, San Francisco, CA 94109; or Open Hand, 1668 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94109.



# AIDS Conferences Held Throughout the World

January 3-7, 1989, Acapulco, Mexico, "Obstetrics, Gynecology, Perinatal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Anesthesiology, Surgery and the Law." Sponsored by the American Society of Law & Medicine. Information: ASLM Travel Planners, Suite 150, GPM Building, San Antonio, TX 78216-5674, Phone 512-341-8131, Telex 767471 TPISAT, FAX 512-341-5252.

January 6-7, 1989, London, United Kingdom, "New Trends in the Diagnosis of Virus Infections." Information: Dr. J. Best, Hammersmith Postgraduate Medical School, De Cane Rd., London W12, United Kingdom, Phone 01-743-2030, ext. 2100.

January 11-12, 1989, Northampton, MA, "Advanced Psychosocial Training for Health Care Workers to Address AIDS." Information: Lori Kiel, Administrative Assistant, JSI Research and Training, 210 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111, Phone 617-482-9485.

January 11-13, 1989, Venice, Italy, "Fifth International Symposium on Cancer Research and AIDS." Information: Sarah Colamarino, Coordinating Council for Cancer Research, 555 Madison Ave., Suite 2900, New York, NY 10022-3399, Phone 212-614-4226.

January 14, 1989, Boston, MA, "A Sociological Perspective on AIDS." Information: Beth Perdue, Director, National Center for Death Education, 656 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02215, Phone 617-536-0194.

January 14-19, 1989, San Francisco, CA, "155th National Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science." Information: AAAS, Joan Wrather, 1333 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20005, Phone 202-326-6440.

January 24-27, 1989, Bangkok, Thailand, "Second International Congress on AIDS in Asia: Leadership in AIDS Prevention through Direct Community Contact." Information: The Secretariat, Second International Congress on AIDS in Asia, 3rd Floor, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines, Phone 8151343 or 8101095 or 8153237, Telex 26436 SEARBY or 45492 INPLUS, FAX (632) 8164220.

February 1-3, 1989, Norfolk, VA, "International Workshop on the Heterosexual Transmission of AIDS." Information: Ms. Rose-Marie Bradley Jones, CONRAD Program, the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine, Eastern Virginia Medical School, 855 W. Brambelton Ave., Suite B, Norfolk, VA 23510, Phone 804-446-5833, Telex 903130 CONRAD.

February 8, 1989, London, United Kingdom, "AIDS and the Nervous System." Information: Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF, United Kingdom.

February 11-12, 1989, London, United Kingdom, "Social Aspects of AIDS." Information: Dr. P. Davies, Dept. Social Sciences, South Bank Polytechnic, Borough Rd., London, SE1 0AA, United Kingdom.

February 11-18, 1989, Arlberg, Austria, "Eighth International Winter Workshop: Biochemical and Clinical Aspects of Pteridines." Information: Univ. Prof. Dr. Helmut Wachter, Institut fur Medizinische Chemie und Biochemie, Fritz-Pregl-Str. 3, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria, Phone (0) 5222/507-2291.

February 16-17, 1989, Atlanta, GA, "National Conference on Clustering of Health Events." Information: Karen Steinberg, Ph.D. or Martha S. Brocato, Center for Environmental Health and Injury Control, CDC, 1600 Clifton Rd., Atlanta, GA 30333, Phone 404-488-4026 or 404-488-4251.

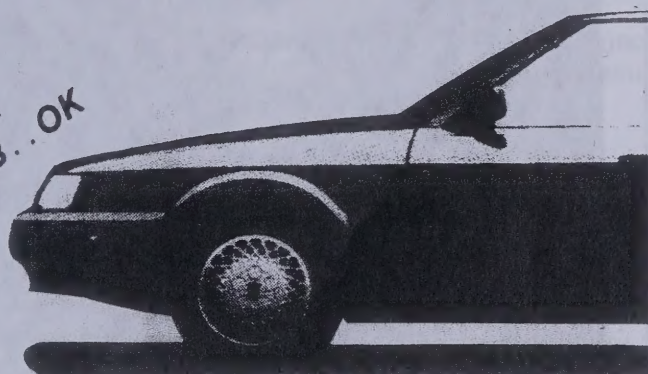


*"Trust me. He may have been gay in the past, but he's not gay now."*



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Natalie Cole

## Natalie Cole to Be at Minority AIDS Lunch

Recording star Natalie Cole has accepted an invitation to appear at a luncheon for the National Minority AIDS Council February 19, 1989. The event will take place during the 1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference to be held in Los Angeles.

Cole appeared at the August 4 "Coming Home for Friends" gospel concert at the Shrine Auditorium which benefited the Minority AIDS Project.

Early registration for the conference, which is sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, has been extended to January 15, 1989. For more information, call 213-667-2549.

## Zaire Breaks Silence

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP)—The Central African nation of Zaire has kept a long official silence on AIDS, but now is attacking the epidemic openly and plans to test 10,000 people in its first survey of the deadly disease. "We know that it is a difficult problem, but we are trying to do what we can do," said Dr. N'Galy Bosenge, leader of Zaire's national AIDS committee.

Reporters visiting Kinshasa in the past had to seek information from Western health officials or private organizations involved in fighting AIDS. N'Galy, whose business card shows a skull in the middle of a heart beneath the French abbreviation for AIDS, now admits them to his office without demanding government authorization and even takes telephone queries from journalists in Europe.

Although gay people have been the main victims in developed countries, the disease has spread among heterosexuals in Africa. This may be because of the unchecked spread of other sexually transmitted diseases, which speed the transmission of AIDS; because of contaminated syringes and blood supplies, and because there are differential numbers of homosexuals on the continent.

World Health Organization spokesman Thomas Netter said by telephone from the U.N. agency's Geneva headquarters that African countries have quickened their AIDS programs in the past 18 months. "It's an acknowledgment that this is a problem and...it's no longer seen as some sort of a stigma," he said. African natins were reporting five to 10 cases 18 months ago but now the total is about 19,000, he said.

Tanzania recently held an international AIDS conference, and Gabon did the same in June. Zaire and several other countries have begun aggressive education campaigns that use comic books, popular music, television and theater.

A WHO statement Friday said reported AIDS cases worldwide rose 7 percent to 119,818 in September, with updated figures from Malawi, Tanzania and Kenya accounting for most of the increase.

The government has been sensitive because of press reports describing Zaire as the birthplace of AIDS and because of the reaction to reports of a survey that found 6 percent to 8 percent of the staff of a Kinshasa hospital to be sero-positive. Tests in Kinshasa of pregnant women and blood donors also suggest the general incidence of AIDS infection is not rising, but the infection rate among prostitutes has grown from 27 percent to 40 percent.



## Max Robinson Dies of AIDS Complications

Max Robinson, the first black television news anchorman in the U.S., died December 20 from complications of AIDS. He was 49. How Robinson acquired the disease, the subject of much speculation in the press, if known, has not been disclosed.

At the height of his success, the Emmy award winner earned \$500,000 a year. He was a part of the ABC network *World News Tonight* three-way anchor team which included Peter Jennings and the late Frank Reynolds.

But his fortunes changed in the eighties allegedly due to alcohol and drug abuse problems. In addition, Robinson was forthright in speaking out on the racism he saw in the industry and at his own company. Shortly after he declined to show up for Frank Reynolds funeral where he was to have been seated next to Nancy Reagan, he was released from his position.

Thus in 1983, the national career that had begun at a small Portsmouth, Virginia TV station where he read the news without his face being seen, came to an end. He became co-anchor at WMAQ in Chicago, and two years later, entered a treatment program in Cleveland for depression and alcoholism.

Roger Wilkins, in a statement quoted by UPI, said that Robinson hoped his death would be used to emphasize the need for AIDS treatment and education, especially among blacks.

Robinson was married three times and has four children.

## MAP Receives Sentinel Community Award

The Minority AIDS Project was among 10 women's and 10 service organizations honored at the 1988 Holiday Fashion Bazaar sponsored by the *Los Angeles Sentinel* December 10. Rev Carl Bean accepted the award from Cheryl Tillman on behalf of the group at the newspaper's lavish Bonaventure Hotel bash.

The *Sentinel* called the Minority AIDS Project "a shining example of determination and community commitment."

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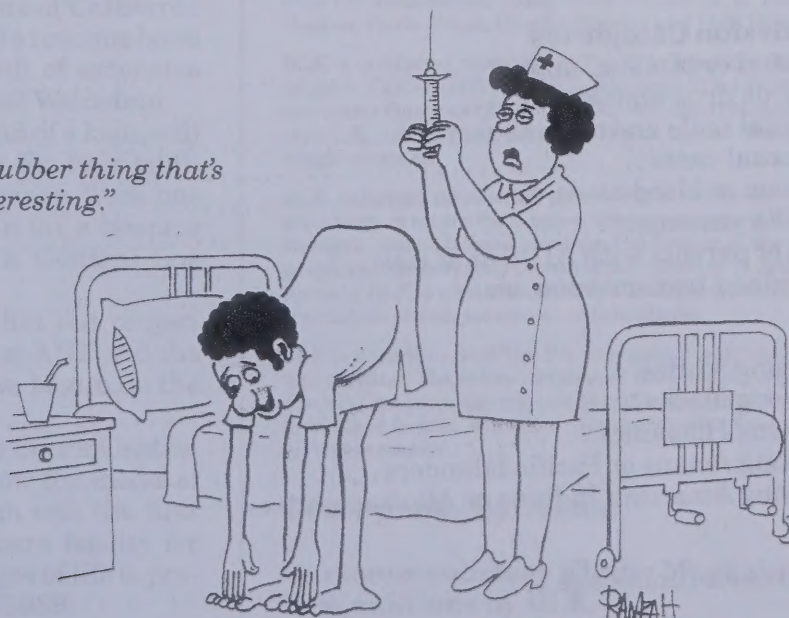
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*"For that area, I've got a long rubber thing that's a hell of a lot more interesting."*





## ART/LA88 to Benefit Warwick Foundation

More than 1500 art collectors and patrons, museum officials and artists from around the world joined Mayor Tom Bradley and ART/LA88 director Brian Angel in honoring Dionne Warwick and her Warwick Foundation at the benefit preview of Los Angeles' third international contemporary art fair December 9. Warwick was saluted for her work in the fight against AIDS and her foundation was one of the beneficiaries of the evening's proceeds.

In addition, Warwick has initiated the formation of her own charity group, BRAVO (Blood Revolves Around Victorious Optimism), to build a facility for the research and treatment of all blood-related diseases. BRAVO has been designated the official AIDS research chapter of the City of Hope.

Warwick appeared at the August 4 "Coming Home for Friends" gospel concert at the Shrine Auditorium which benefited the Minority AIDS Project.



Dionne Warwick

## CDC Lists December Statistics On U.S. AIDS Cases

ATLANTA (AP)—Here are the latest statistics on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in the United States, through December 8, 1988, as reported this week by the national Centers for Disease Control. These statistics have been rounded to the nearest whole percent. Cumulative totals are for AIDS cases reported since June 1981, and include 75 cases subsequently found to have occurred prior to that date.

### Number of Cases

|                                            |                                    |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Total cases reported since June 1981 ..... | 79,823                             |
| Cases, year to date .....                  | 29,390                             |
| Total deaths .....                         | 44,826, or 56 percent of all cases |

### Transmission Categories

|                                                |                       |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Homosexual or bisexual males .....             | 48,625, or 61 percent |
| Intravenous drug abusers .....                 | 15,533, or 19 percent |
| Homosexual male and drug abusers .....         | 5,662, or 7 percent   |
| Heterosexual cases .....                       | 3,442, or 4 percent   |
| Transfusion or blood cases .....               | 2,144, or 3 percent   |
| Hemophilia patients .....                      | 837, or 1 percent     |
| Children of parents with AIDS or at risk ..... | 991, or 1 percent     |
| Undetermined transmission cause .....          | 2,589, or 3 percent   |

### Race

|                                                       |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cases among whites .....                              | 45,972, or 58 percent |
| Cases among blacks .....                              | 21,151, or 26 percent |
| Cases among Hispanics .....                           | 11,962, or 15 percent |
| Cases among Asians or Pacific Islanders .....         | 478, or 1 percent     |
| Cases among American Indians or Alaskan natives ..... | 85, or 0 percent      |

### Age

|                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Childhood cases (under age 13) ..... | 1,278, or 2 percent |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|



## Ethiopia Reports 74 Cases of AIDS

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Ethiopia on Thursday marked World AIDS Day by distributing stickers, posters and buttons warning of the dangers of the deadly disease and giving tips on how to avoid it. Banners and leaflets carrying the same messages were distributed in junior and secondary schools in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, other towns and in the countryside.

The AIDS Prevention and Control Office on Wednesday said Ethiopia had registered 74 cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome at the end of the week in October. Among the afflicted, 56 were men, 18 women and 25 of the total had died. The AIDS Prevention and Control Office made no mention of the period when the cases were registered or when the deaths occurred.

Getachew Haile, head of the prevention and control office, said in a television broadcast Wednesday that 70 percent of the known cases had been registered in Addis Ababa. However, he said the College of Social Sciences of Addis Ababa University was conducting a countrywide survey on AIDS. Preliminary reports from 18 of 25 centers under study showed the disease was more widespread in the country than previously though, Haile said.

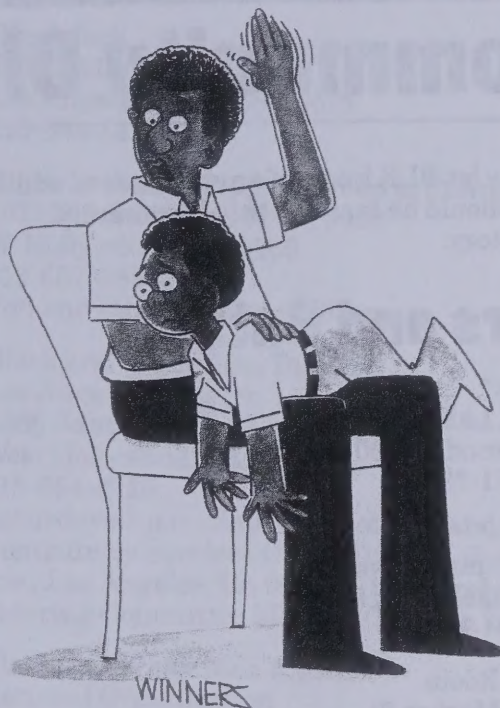
## South Central Targeted for Future Hospice

In December, the AIDS Hospice Foundation received final approval from the State of California for the issuance of a \$5 million state revenue bond issue. The issuance was the result of extensive lobbying by AHF president Michael Weinstein.

The additional money, in the form of a loan, will allow AHF to continue its plans for four additional hospices in Los Angeles County. Work has already begun on securing a site for a hospice geographically located in South Central Los Angeles.

There is a strong possibility that the project will be a cooperative effort between AHF and the Minority AIDS Project. Talks have begun on the efficacy of such a partnership.

Current plans indicate that the South Central hospice, as yet unnamed, will follow the model of the Chris Brownlie Hospice which was the first project of AHF. The residential care facility for people with AIDS in the final stages of life is projected to open in the latter part of 1989.



*"In 15 or 20 years this might be fun for you, but right now, it's going to hurt like hell."*

# BLK

Number 2, January 1989

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**Cover photo: Sylvester.**

**Cartoons courtesy Ebony Magazine.  
New captions by BLK.**



# Community Directory

Please let BLK know of any changes or additions that should be made to this Community Directory.

## Bars and Baths

### Annex\*

835 S. LaBrea Ave.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-671-7323

### Basgo's\*

3909 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-664-1929

### Caper Room

244 S. Market St.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-677-0403  
Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male Exotic Dancers;  
Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies  
Night; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free Buffet; Sundays  
8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.

### Catch One

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-8849  
Sundays 4-8 p.m. Women's Tea Dance;  
Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.

### Cottage\*\*

5050 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-935-5540

### Cover Girl Club\*\*

9300 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90230  
213-870-1595  
Fridays Women's Night. (All other days,  
basically straight.)

### Horizon

3416 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour;  
Tuesdays Welfare Night



*"You can always tell when it's stripper night at  
the Caper Room."*



Jewel's Room  
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Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-8849  
Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1  
a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m.  
Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync;  
Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m.  
Free BBQ.

Midtowne Spa\*  
615 S. Kohler St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
213-680-1838

Rage\*  
8911 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90069  
213-652-7596

Study\*  
1723 N. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-464-9551  
Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour

*\*Interracial*  
*\*\*Mixed gay and straight*

## Organizations

People of Color Alcoholics Anonymous  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 6 p.m.

Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Mondays 7-8 p.m.

Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum  
Box 29812  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-667-2549  
Saturdays Noon. Planning Meetings.

Black Gay Men's Rap Group  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-274-3398  
1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

Black Jack  
Box 83515  
Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515  
213-338-1516

Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexxus  
1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110  
W. Hollywood, CA 90069  
213-652-3894  
2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

Black and White Men Together  
Los Angeles Chapter  
7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
213-664-4716  
Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian  
Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland  
Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m.  
Steering Committee Meeting (location varies)

Black and White Men Together  
National Organization  
584 Castro St. #140  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415-431-1976

Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-664-0234, 213-274-3398

Gentlemen Concerned  
Box 712298  
Bunker Hill Station  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

A large, bold, black rectangular box containing the word "BLK" in white, sans-serif, uppercase letters. The letters are thick and blocky, with the 'B' and 'K' having a slightly irregular, hand-drawn feel.



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Los Angeles, CA 90016  
213-935-4105  
Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize  
exercise group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40"  
Black Women Support Group.

Minority AIDS Project  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking Support  
Group; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV +, ARC, and  
AIDS Support Group (Held at Midway Hospital,  
4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente);  
Fridays 1 p.m. Family Members of AIDS Patients  
Support Group.

National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays  
19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48219  
313-537-0484

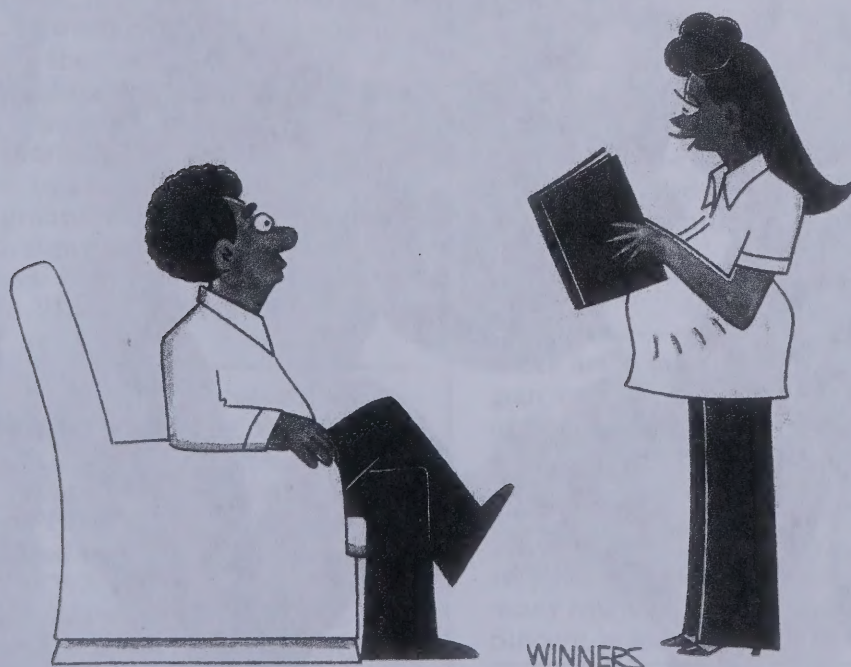
United Fellowship Church  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship Service;  
Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study; Saturdays 12:30  
p.m. Choir Rehearsal.

Watts Health Foundation  
4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B  
Compton, CA 90221  
213-639-3068

Womyn of Colors  
1213 N. Highland Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90038  
213-464-7400, ext. 205  
Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

X-Calibre Social Club  
9001 Keith Ave.  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
213-274-3398

Z and Z Productions  
4153 Garden Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90039  
213-663-6340



*"I think our 'marriage of convenience' just got a  
little inconvenient for both of us."*



**THE**

# **BLACK LINE**

**TWICE THE  
ACTION OF  
ANY OTHER**

**976**

# **HUGE**



**\$2.00 PLUS TOLL IF ANY**



# Classifieds

## EMPLOYMENT

Secretary-receptionist. \$17,000 plus medical. Send resume and cover letter to: Executive Director, Aid for AIDS, Inc., 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 200, W. Hollywood, CA 90046. 213-656-1107.

Prevention Specialist Counselor Nurse/R.N. or Health Educator. 37.5 hours per week, full time. \$30,000. For additional information, contact Ruth I. Slaughter, Project W.A.R.N., 213-413-7779.

Teen Community Outreach Worker. 18 hours per week, part time. \$6 per hour. For additional information, contact Ruth I. Slaughter, Project W.A.R.N., 213-413-7779.

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body ~~must~~. (No frontal nudity.) Also need ~~models~~. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

Volunteer Coordinator, 100% time, \$25,000 annually to start. To work with men and women affected by HIV, and the volunteer core responsible for providing emotional support to them. Prior experience working with life threatening illness is helpful. Experience with crisis intervention, intakes, volunteer supervision, and groups is required. Bi-lingual or experience with sign preferred. For more information, contact: Executive Director, L.A. Shanti Foundation. 213-273-7591 or TDD 213-273-7217.

BLK needs people in the following categories. TYPISTS: To transcribe interviews. Your equipment or ours. ADVERTISING SALES: Two people to sell advertising space on a commission basis. PHOTOGRAPHERS: Two photographers (experienced preferred) for all aspects of photojournalism. NEWS: Reporters to handle special assignments. All positions part time. Women especially encouraged to apply. BLK, Box 83812, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Call Alan at 213-410-0808. (TF)

Mental Health Specialist. Provide mental health training, education and technical assistance to agencies serving the homeless and residents of these programs as part of the Community Outreach and Education team of the L.A. Homeless Health Care Project. M.S.W., M.F.C.C., L.C.S.W., or psychologist. Salary range: \$28-32,000. Full medical and dental benefits. Paid time for professional in-service. Parking and mileage. Submit resume to: Bob Erlenbusch, Program Director, L.A. Homeless Health Care Project, 1010 S. Flower, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90015. Deadline Monday, January 2, 1989.

## WANTED

Phallic Science Church needs: rolltop desk, used/new legal and letter file cabinet (two drawers to three drawers), and a photographer for nude models and videos. Write C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Your nude black and white photos welcomed. (TF)

## FOR SALE

For Sale—1973 Mercury Montego MX BRO. Red with white interior. Runs good and very dependable. 8-cylinder with air conditioning. Needs radio and vinyl top. Interested? Call me for test run evenings. \$600 or best offer. Dennis 213-731-3659. (TF)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Black actor, musician, very good looking, former gourmet cook and property manager seeks room and board in exchange for household duties. References on request. Call Bert 818-888-5015, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. only.

Black and clean to share small bachelor apt. very near ocean in Venice. \$150 wk. Very nice, many extras. Call anytime 213-396-4761. Sincere, masculine, good looking.

Share Ladera Heights two-story, 5 bedroom, 5 bath house with 3 other men (2 straight, 1 gay). TV room, etc. Non-smoker. \$500 plus share utilities. First, last and one month security. 213-645-4545. (TF)



Blk man w/ ocean vu vacation timeshare condo for sale. Must sell quickly. Keith at 213-305-7032. (TF)

### MODELS

Black College Jock. 24 years old, 6'1", 170 lbs., hung, cut and thick. Safe and clean. Into most scenes. Call Lee at 213-739-8781.

Bi Mandingo. 190 lbs., 44c, 17a, 29w, very masculine BB, likes pussy and pussy ass. Hot cock ready to feed u, front and back. Also luv head. Cum and get it! Jay 213-962-1533. No flakes.

Hot black man, 10" hung, 31 years, 5'10", 155 lbs., hard body, safe in LA, Gardena area. In \$40, out \$50. Call Dave 213-779-6829. 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

Black bodybuilder. 213-652-4775. 220 lbs. \$100.

### MASSEURS

Hot Jamaican. 6' 180 lbs., 44c, 32w. Into pleasing his man in a hot deep sensuous massage. Call Cliff. 818-980-3380. Serious calls only.

Black BB + . Best full table massage by very good looking black body. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body. Safe, discreet. \$60. Santa Monica. 213-396-4761. 7 days, 24 hours.

Hot black masseur, good looking, great hands and hung. Knows how to give wonderful massages. Call Raymond. 818-762-9311.

### PERSONALS

Husky, masculine, black male, 5'10", 35" waist, good natured seeks individual of similar build. Must have a good sense of humor, be of a mature spirit and be of a non-effeminate nature. Call 213-750-6361 and leave message. (TF)

23-year-old, semi-attractive GBM looking for someone between ages of 24 and 50. If you are interested in walks along the beach, candlelit dinners and generally spending the most romantic time of your life with someone who can really care about you, then write Cory Calmese, 2938 Wellington Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90016. (TF)

Black, Latin or Asian man wanted to hang out with WM, 39. We share these traits: non-smoker, straight-appearing, health-oriented, physically-active, self-reliant, responsible, romantic, sensual. Art 213-674-9032 anytime.

Good looking professional Latin male seeks boyfriend for dating, safe sex, possible lover. Me: 43, 5'6", 150 lbs., hot bottom. You: 30-45, hot, hung top looking for a real relationship. Masculine and in-shape only. Black and Latins + + + . Call evenings. 213-258-6318.

I want black top. GWM, 5'9", 160 lbs. seeks good looking, well hung black man who likes to fuck (condom). Call Raymond 213-382-3186.

BM, 47 years old, 5'8", 140 lbs. seeks friendship. 213-732-8591. Robert.

Good looking black Sagittarius 5'10", 145 lbs., looking for a good looking masculine Leo or Aries, 34 to 40 years young, 5'10" up. Let's share life together. Coty 213-755-8848. (3)

Hot white sucker, 32, seeks blacks 50 + . B.B., Box 10501, Glendale, CA 91209-3501.

Young black wanted. You: 18 + , small, thin and hairless, in need of caring father-image and possible lover. Me: 40, handsome top, who wants cute buddy and friend. Call 213-936-0200, ext 5011.

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Black man, masculine, interested in meeting intelligent and comical other black males for conversation and good times. Chuck 213-382-6943. (TF)

24-year-old, 5'7", small athletic build, seeks relationship with caring, intelligent, non-effeminate man. Write E. Christo, Box 71123, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (TF)

Sincere GBM, age 26, 6'5", 215 lbs., looking for a good "safe" friend. Masculine types of close or similar stature please respond. If you love tennis, good music, and the movies, plus the companionship of another gay brother, write Michael J., 7549 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046. (TF)



Attractive, independent, well-bred GBM, 22 yrs., 6'1½", 170 lbs., ethnic, NYC-bred, Chi-town born. Into Grace Jones, house music, KKGO and tall, masculine, blk-blk basketball boys. Call Ltyrone. 818-760-8216. (TF)

Hot, attractive, 39-year-old male, outgoing and intelligent, seeks masculine, mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Call C.B., 714-682-4685, Riverside, California. (TF)

Very good looking black gay male seeking good looking male for honest intimate relationship. Please send photo and letter to: Mr. E. Anderson, 7727 Lankershim Blvd. #253, N. Hollywood, Calif. 91605. Will return photo. (TF)

Tender Ronie, 24 and outgoing. Looking for a special friend who is safe, masculine and dominating. If interested, call Ronie at 213-256-6833. Midnight to 6:30 a.m. (TF)

Attractive GBM, 26, 5'7", 169 lbs., interested in meeting husky men for lasting relationship or friendship. Hobbies include music, sports, romantic times, summer outings. Write Jeff, 4106 Palmwood Dr. #3, Los Angeles, CA 90008. (TF)

Black, masculine, athletic, educated male, 5'11", 185 lbs., 38 seeks masculine, dominating mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Morning calls or leave message. Jay Jay 714-786-3258. Or write 3800 Parkview Lane #28B, Irvine, CA 92715. (TF)



*"I don't see why grownups avoid safe sex.  
I think it's kinda fun, myself."*



**It's  
Back!**

**IN BLACK**

**$\frac{213}{818}$  976-**

**HUGE**

**THE ONLY ALL BLACK MALE PARTY LINE**

**\$2.00 plus toll, if any  
(you must be 18 or over)**



# How to Place a Free Classified Ad

Anyone may place an ad of 10 words or less absolutely free. Over 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word. A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Simply fill out the space below. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* The rate for commercial enterprises is 25 cents per word. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads in which by its content advertises or solicits sexual acts which are currently considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1. If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach a previous ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is strictly confidential and will not appear in your name.

## Complete and sign the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
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## Figure cost of ad:

First 10 words (Free to everyone, except commercial enterprises) .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ at 25 cents per word .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total ad cost .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of insertions .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912



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Community  
For Over 20  
Years"**

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someone here for you!**

A safe place to come . . .

A clean place to come . . .

A fun place to come . . .

A healthy place to come . . .

**COME BY SOON . . . YOU ALL**

$\frac{1}{2}$  price on Tuesday • Full service  
every day of the year



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With this Coupon

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**Phone (213) 680-1838**

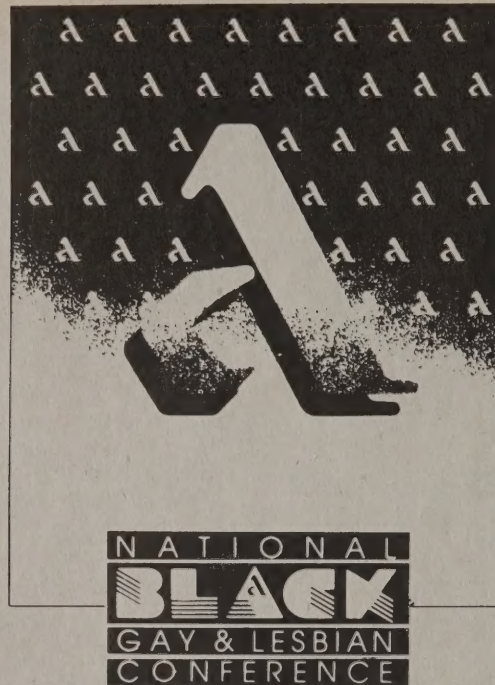




# BLK

Number 4, March 1989





The Planning Committee  
of the  
**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**  
would like to thank the entire community  
for your participation and support in making the  
**SECOND ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
AND AIDS INSTITUTE**  
a tremendous success.

Our congratulations to our 1989 honorees:

The James Baldwin Memorial Arts and Letters Award  
**Sylvester**

The Bayard Rustin Political Activism Award  
**Pat Norman**

The Harriet Tubman Organization of the Year Award  
**Unity Fellowship of Christ Church**

Fred Garnett Memorial Award  
for the fight against AIDS in the Black Community  
**Whoopi Goldberg**

We look forward to working with you in the coming year and we invite you to join us at the  
Third Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and second Annual AIDS Institute.

February 16 - 19, 1990



# Calendar

## SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1989

Black and Tan Beer Bust at Griff's, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA. 3-7 p.m. 213-660-0889.

Los Angeles Marathon Party at Basgo's, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 9 a.m. Door prizes and poster giveaways. 213-664-1929.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1989

Anger Workshop for women only sponsored by Womyn of Colors, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$10-20 sliding scale. 213-464-7400.

Raffle and Carnival sponsored by the Brothers of Fellowship of Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 2:30 p.m. Games, videos and food. 213-936-4949.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1989

Southern California Leathermen's Beer Bust at Griff's, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA. 3-7 p.m. 213-660-0889.

A Celebration of Sobriety with Nathan, Michelle, Kim, Berry, Barbara, Sherry and Jewel at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 4-8 p.m. No cover. 213-737-1159.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1989

Audre Lorde, Professor of English at Hunter College of the City University of New York, will speak on "Women, Power and Difference" as the third in the UCLA Women's Studies Department four-part series, "Claiming, Honoring, Rejoicing Lesbian Herstory." The noted writer, poet and theorist will speak in UCLA Haines Hall, Room 39. 7:30 p.m. \$15. Seats are limited. Call for availability. 213-206-8101.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1989

Mr., Ms. and Miss Gay Contest at Annex, 825 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA. 8 p.m. \$10 contest entry fee. \$5 cover to attend judging. 213-671-7323.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 1989

Brunch sponsored by the Brothers of Fellowship of Unity Fellowship Church. Airport Park Hotel, 600 S. Prairie, Inglewood, CA. 2 p.m. Entertainment. \$20. 213-936-4949.

## MONDAY, MARCH 27, 1989

Catch One's 17th Anniversary Celebration runs from March 27 through April 2, 1989. Tonight the Catch's regular "Oldies but Goodies" Night. 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-737-1159.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1989

Catch One's 17th Anniversary Celebration continues with Singer Toretta McKinney. 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-737-1159.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1989

Catch One's 17th Anniversary Celebration continues with Singer Nadirah. 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-737-1159.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1989

Two local poets, Pat Parker and Cheryl Clarke, will speak at California State University, Los Angeles in honor of

Women's History Month. Alumni Lounge of the University Student Union, 5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles, CA. 7 p.m. Call Ann Bradley for more information. 213-343-3046.

Catch One's 17th Anniversary Celebration continues with their Mr. and Ms. Catch One Contest. Trophy, cash and prizes. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-737-1159.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1989

Two local poets, Pat Parker and Cheryl Clarke, will read their works about the gay and lesbian, black experience. A Different Light Bookstore, 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 7 p.m. Free. 213-668-0629.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

People of Color Mobilizing Against AIDS is sponsoring a march and rally on the occasion of the National Black Mayor's Conference in Oakland, CA. 11 a.m. Assemble at Lake Merritt BART station; 12 noon March begins; 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rally begins at City Hall.

Second Black Lesbian and Gay Conference to be held in Birmingham, England April 1-2, 1989. For more information, write 25 Garfield St., Leicester LE4 5GF, England.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1989

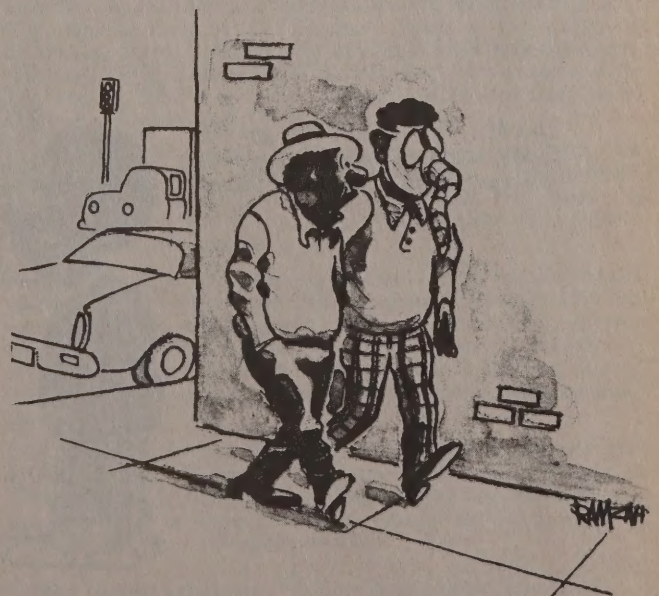
Catch One's 17th Anniversary Celebration continues with a fashion show by Devo and a performance by Dr. Love, a new group headed by an ex-member of the Delfonics.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

Eighth Annual Installation Banquet sponsored by Black and White Men Together. 7:30 p.m. No-host bar. Awards. DJ dancing. \$30. Call Rene Seidel for more information. 213-483-1108.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1989

Renee McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays will be one of the keynote speakers at the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men to be held in Dallas, Texas April 13-16, 1989. Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219. 214-471-6040.



*"Don't you think your fear of AIDS is getting a little out of hand?"*



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The BLK is wonderful. But Maisonet says in his interview that "a pivotal play was written by a black lesbian—Lorraine Hansberry." I consider myself a scholar of Lorraine Hansberry—for whatever that's worth—and without checking up on it at the moment, I am fairly certain that Lorraine Hansberry married Robert Nemiroff who after his wife's death compiled *To Be Young, Gifted and Black*. I recall also reading in a biography about Lorraine Hansberry that neither her family nor Robert's opposed their marriage—or at least the idea of it. Therefore, I don't think Maisonet is being entirely accurate stating (granted to make a point) that Lorraine Hansberry was a lesbian. I suggest he research this matter before he proclaims it as an indisputable fact which innumerable people might accept as the absolute truth, not knowing any better—at the most I believe he made a half-truth. And personally I don't think a self-proclaimed lesbian would marry a man. (This can be disputed too.) I guess the only way to find out is to write a letter to her husband, Robert Nemiroff who I saw in a symposium in D.C. last year. I haven't heard he's kicked the bucket, so its probably not too late to find out from him, the best source we have.

If I am not right in my assumption and if the truth of this matter is arrived at, I would very much like to know.

Sincerely,  
Jesse Harris

*Lorraine Hansberry's lesbianism is documented in Jonathan Katz's Gay American History and Barbara Christian's Black Feminist Criticism.*

Dear Editor:

Since its inception, the Minority AIDS Project has faced an uphill battle, not just fighting the epidemic of AIDS in the minority communities, but also having to

deal with a loosely organized and structured society.

Therefore, when BLK was introduced we welcomed it. Personally, I welcome any attempt by a black person to do or produce something positive for any segment of the black community.

However, I was disappointed when I was shown a copy of the third edition. I felt there were references—as we have discussed one-on-one—that were simply in poor taste and of negative journalistic quality.

I hope your efforts in the future with BLK can provide your readers with a variety of articles, but always with taste and respect.

Wilbert C. Jordan, M.D., M.P.H.  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Minority AIDS Project

*We feel comfortable with the propriety of our journalistic standards, although we recognize the value of other points of view.*

Dear Editor:

I would like to congratulate you and your staff on a fine publication.

I was also pleased to see coverage of our "Man of the Year Award" being given to Rev. Carl Bean this year. However, I would like to make the editorial staff of your publication aware that Christopher Street West Association does not consider itself an "Anglo" organization as pointed out in Preston Guider's column.

Christopher Street West Association promotes gay and lesbian pride from within our community and projects gay and lesbian pride to non-gay individuals and organizations. We feel gay and lesbian pride is inclusive of all ethnic communities and Christopher Street West welcomes and encourages participation from ALL members of our community.

*"But Mr. Watkins, all kids get into fights. Suppose I just let you have your way with me, and we forget the whole thing."*





We wish you every success in the future.

Gary S. Jonker

President

Christopher Street West/Los Angeles

Dear Editor:

Many were not aware of, or unable to attend, a major event in our community the weekend of February 17, 1989. This event was the second annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference. The Conference theme was "Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing for the 21st Century."

There have been mixed reviews of the Conference from "a great gathering" to being called the "Phill Wilson Show."

It is great that we live in a free country with the right to express ourselves. I have listened to the pros and cons of my brothers and sisters about the Conference. I was a member of the steering committee for the first Conference and attended and videotaped this year's Conference. I have reviewed those tapes a number of times and want to share some of my opinions and observations.

We, the "so called" leadership, gathered "to provide us with a national forum from which to address the past, share, discuss and celebrate our future." All of these were noble ideas, but as Natalie Cole said at the luncheon, "We think that we are doing wonderful things, we get very full of ourselves. We forget that there are people who can not make it to the table all the time." She was talking about some persons at the luncheon who had passed out a letter that was critical of the Conference and called it the "Phill Wilson Show." Natalie stated it very well when she said, "They feel a little left out...their feelings are very valid."

Some leaders at the Conference dismissed the letter by labeling the group as radical or leftist, and did not deal with the letter itself. This we do too often, we deal with the messenger as opposed to the message. I do not agree with all parts of the letter, but there were some valid points to look at and deal with.

Some time we as leaders "get very full of ourselves" and resent when persons call us to account for our actions. Earlier I called us "so called" leaders because we sometimes only speak for ourselves or a small minority of the black gay and/or lesbian community. And that is okay if we understand that and do not pretend that we speak for the whole community or a majority of the community. Our community is heterogeneous and we need to learn to respect those differences and as Rev. Jesse Jackson said, "we need to find common ground."

Yes, we need to call our leaders to task if we disagree with their actions. And we as leaders, if we can not stand the heat, we need to get out the kitchen. We must learn not to label persons "those people, that fringe element or the enemy." We need to come together and agree to disagree.

Yes there were in their written opinion, problems with the Conference. The Rev. Carl Bean in his keynote address pointed out a problem with the Conference that I think went over everyone's head. He said, "At this Conference there is someone absent. I don't see the Drag Queen, the true liberator, the one that stood up when no one else would." Where were the youth of our community? Where were the unemployed and homeless of our community? Yes, someone is going to say there were one or two of the above there, and my answer will be that that is not good enough. How often have we as blacks heard, "Oh yes, I have one or two black employees" when there are over 300 employees at the company. In the future we need to plan and go out of our way to make

certain that everyone can "make it to the table."

I decided to write this letter because I ran into a homeless transsexual after the luncheon who asked if it was O.K. for him to attend the memorial for Joe Beam. He stated that he had come in late and since there was no one on the door, simply took a seat at one of the tables. He ask if there were any leftovers because the waiter had cleared the tables. This, my brother and sister, should not have happened. And yes it would be easy to place all the problems of this Conference on Phill Wilson and the steering committee, but no, we all must accept a part of this burden. It is not easy to put together such a conference. The Conference did bring people together and hopefully the third annual Conference will be bigger and better. But this can only happen with all of us rolling up our sleeves and working together. As Natalie said to us at the Conference "principle before personality...no more ego tripping and no more B.S.ing." Let us begin "loving ourselves and healing ourselves."

L. Paul Davis, Jr.

*Phill Wilson, Chair of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, replies: I couldn't agree more with the sentiments expressed in Paul Davis's letter. It is important for all of our institutions and organizations to be inclusive of the diversity of our community and it is the responsibility of all of us to participate in the inclusion of us all.*

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. They should include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. Names will be withheld on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.

# BLK

Number 4, March 1989

*Edited and published by Alan Bell. Editorial staff: Revon Kyle Banneker, L. Paul Davis, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Frank Hall, Harvey Huggins, Chi Hughes, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen, Jarvis D. Moore, Christopher Riles, Charles Stewart, Christine Tripp. Listings staff: Ron Parker. Photographic staff: Bill Doggett, Bob Finney, Terry Johnson. Advertising staff: Gene Cornelius. Support staff: Oscar Smith.*

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Cartoons courtesy Ebony Magazine.

New captions by BLK.



# Integrating Ourselves

*Building bridges and coalitions  
to create wholeness*

**By Deborah L. Johnson**

I have been asked to share with you a few of my personal perceptions regarding the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum and the Conference which it sponsors. I'm here to talk about its purpose and its significance. But first I'd like to share with you something that happened to me personally.

Although this particular incident happened several years ago, it so typifies the experience that I encounter while doing education and outreach as a black lesbian. I was making a presentation to a group of freshmen on UCLA's campus. There were about 60 to 70 students there, all black, as part of an EEOP program. I was the only black person on a panel of seven people. Of course, the one thing that everyone wanted to know was why was I on this panel with all these gay people because, after all, I was black and had no business being there. They were obviously deeply disturbed by my presence.

At one point, a very angry young man with an extremely

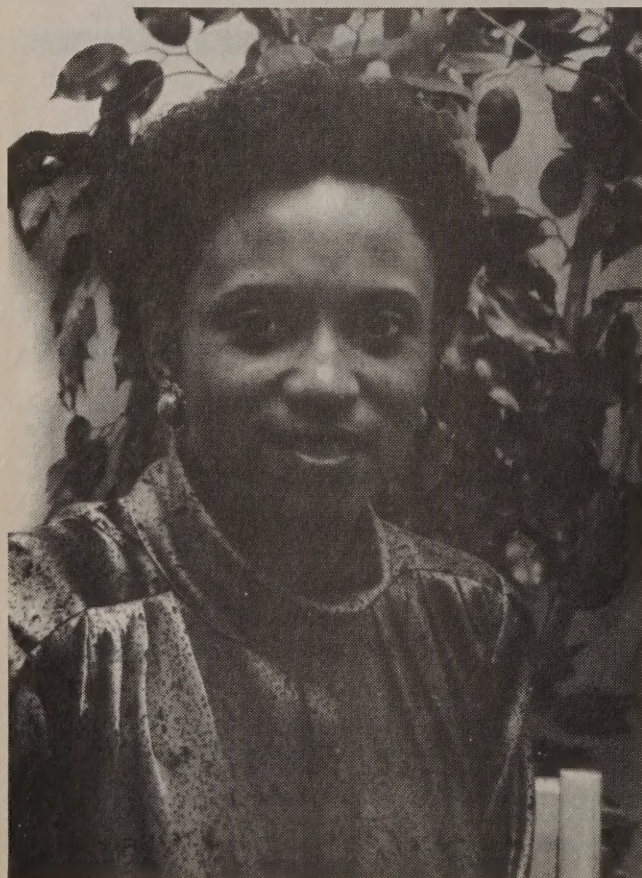
hostile attitude towards me rushes up to me and demands that I tell the audience whether I experience more oppression as a black person or as a gay person. I looked him dead in the eye and explained, "If you have your foot on my neck, I don't really care why it's there. Whether it's there because I am black, or because I'm a woman, or because I'm gay, it doesn't hurt any less. Just get your foot off."

A couple of weeks ago, I was teaching a relationship workshop series. One of the sessions was entitled "Maintaining Your Integrity." In preparation for the workshop, I went to Webster's Dictionary and I looked up the word "integrity." I found that "integrity" came from the Latin root word "integer" which means to make "whole." Integrity is a noun. The verb form of the word "integer" is "integrate." I thought to myself, "Isn't that interesting?" An integration is a coming together of various parts, not for the sake of the coming together, but to make a whole.

I believe that the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum and its Conferences allow us to integrate our lives as individuals. The Forum and Conferences allow us to be all that we are simultaneously and harmoniously. Integrity implies maintaining a consistency of your wholeness. To have integrity means to take all of you with you wherever you go, not leaving parts of you behind. It means not abandoning, not denying parts of you because they appear to be inappropriate for the environment that you are in. Integrity means being all that you are whenever and wherever you are.

The Forum and the Conferences allow us to be both black and lesbian or gay, *at the same time without having to choose between the two* in our activism. For so long the gay and lesbian community has not been able to incorporate us because it hasn't known how to deal with our blackness. The black community, on the other hand, couldn't handle our gayness. After all, you know that's the social disease we picked up from the Anglo Society which then makes our "blackness" a little questionable. So we've been too black for one community and not black enough for the other. Just what is a person to do?

Most of us in this room have been the proverbial "them" that everyone is always talking about—the ones on the fringes, the periphery, the outskirts of life that no one ever deals with until there is some kind of uprising. But, through organizations like the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, we are making a place for ourselves in the center core of things. We are becoming an integral part of society. I am a professional consultant to numerous organization. In my work I can see that both the black and the gay and lesbian communities are beginning to redefine themselves. It's an evolutionary process. It's slow, but it is happening. These communities are moving away from the "us" versus "them" mentality into a new definition of who the "we" is. Thank God that the expanding definition has begun to include most of us in this room. And rightfully so,



**Deborah L. Johnson**



for we have made significant contributions, as well. We've done our share.

Arriving at this point of an integrated wholeness is an important step in creating stability both in one's personal life and politically. When you are at cross purposes with yourself you are fragmented. A house divided against itself cannot long stand. When we are divided, we are too easily conquered. Part of what we are able to do at this Conference is experience our strength in numbers.

What we have in this Conference is a forum in which we can exchange information, form alliances, define ourselves, explore our issues and concerns. We are shedding our invisibility and our isolationism which, in of itself, is making us more powerful. We have here an opportunity to train and educate ourselves, to embrace our history and our culture, and to determine where we are headed in our future.

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Forum and its Conferences also provides a tangible focal point enabling others to reach us and learn more about us. For too long, the burden of cultural pluralism and sexual diversity has been on our backs to go out and explain to others who we are and what we are about. The Forum and its Conferences provides an opportunity for other to come and see for themselves.

Through this Conference, we are building bridges and coalitions. We are not trying to get power from somewhere else. We are exercising our own. We are not asking for a seat at the table of another. We are preparing our own meal and sharing it with all of those who would partake. We now have a collective voice that is being heard by politicians, educators, civic leaders, entertainers, the clergy, and the medical community. Just last night we partied hard as Catch One. But we didn't only party. We raised money to educate our community about the dreaded disease AIDS and ways to prevent its spread.

Less than a year ago, at that same black gay establishment, we held hands in prayer for our PWAs with Jesse

Jackson. A Presidential candidate came to see us on our turf and it was the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum that got him there.

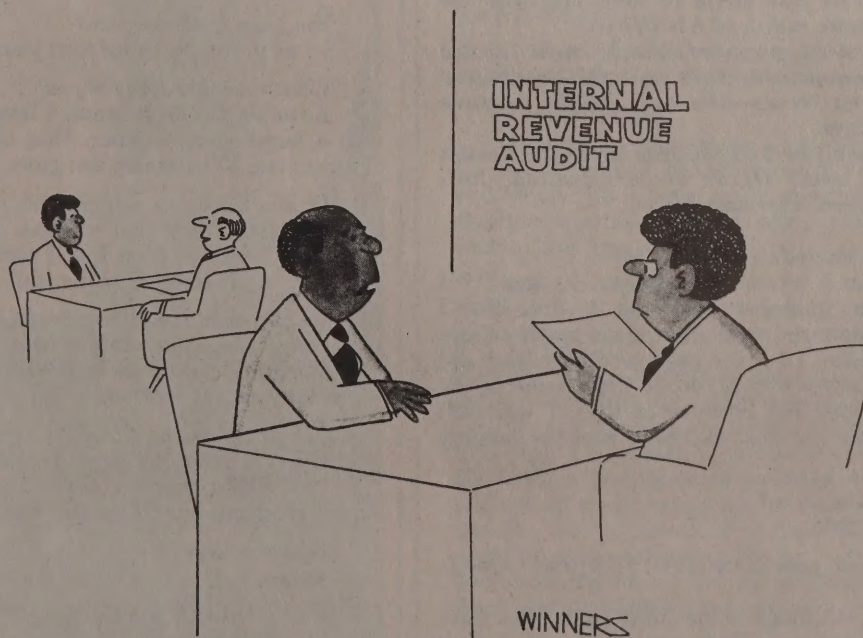
Mark my words, something important is happening here and by your presence tonight you are all a part of it. We are at the dawning of a new era in our history. It's exciting. It's empowering. It's inevitable. And it's now! By our proclamation that we are who we are, all of what we are, wherever we are, we bring a new level of integrity to our own lives and to all the social/political movements that we have always been a part of.

When, I look at the Forum and its Conferences, I see education, leadership development, and AIDS awareness. I see networking, coalition building, and the formulation of political strategies. But I also see having fun, caring, sharing. Perhaps most importantly of all, I see healing, much needed healing. To me this spells pride, hope for the future, and a better life for us all.

I am not one to be easily impressed. But I have been deeply impressed with what the National Black Gay and Lesbian Forum has been able to accomplish in a relatively brief period of time. Everyone who has been involved with making this so deserves to be commended. I'm asking you tonight to aide the Forum in giving us a voice, in giving us vehicles like this Conference through which we can interact with each other. Within the next few days, you will be given several opportunities to contribute to the Forum your money, your time, your talent, and your love. Take them. Not only does the Forum need your support, I think it deserves it, as well.

As I look around this room tonight I can only say that I'm very glad that we are all here, that we have it to this point. And from my perspective, it's about time! Thank you and good evening.

*The foregoing is the complete text of Deborah L. Johnson's keynote address presented February 18, 1989 at the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference Banquet.*



*"Well, then, suppose we don't deduct for the lube and condoms."*



# Randy Cochran

*One of America's most prominent porn stars  
talks about his profession*

**By Revon Kyle Banneker**

*Nearly anyone in the life these past few years has certainly noticed the surge in popularity of erotic video tapes. The phenomenon is due in part to both the advent of home video and the fear of AIDS.*

*Although the erotic film field is dominated by whites, there also has been an increase in the number of black films. Along with the films, of course, has come a new galaxy of black erotic stars, albeit perhaps not enough for erotic film lovers.*

*Whether or not one likes or views erotic films, sooner or later such questions as these must cross*

## THE BLK INTERVIEW

*the mind: "What kind of person would do that?" "Do they make any money?" "What about contracting disease?"*

*To find out what kind of person would do "that," BLK decided to talk to a prominent black male erotic star—Randy Cochran.*

*Born in Baltimore 26 years ago, Randy moved to Southern California in 1984. Like most new arrivals to L.A., he was not exactly sure what life had in store for him. Within a year he found himself immersed in a field he has come to love, one that he has decided to devote much of his life to.*

*Arguably the most popular black male erotic star, Randy was nominated this year for Best Actor by the Adult Video News—the only black to have ever been so honored.*

*Randy is 5'9", weighs 160 pounds and has brown hair and brown eyes. He is smooth-bodied, hot-natured, circumcised and hung 9"x 7."*

*How did you get started in erotic films?*

Well, I'm first and foremost a dancer. At age 17 I began exotic dancing in clubs back home. A while after I arrived in L.A., I answered an ad in a trade paper calling for dancers for a video. I got the part, and only later did the cast discover that it was an erotic film. Some of the cast members dropped out because of that. I was still interested, and after the dust settled I was the leading actor.

*When did that take place?*

In the spring of 1986.

*Did that represent your first erotic film and what is the name of it?*

It was the first, although some films that I did later were released before it was. The name of it is *Making It Big*. Adult Video News nominated me Best Actor for 1988 for that film.

*So how many videos total have you done?*

I believe it's 64. I probably average about one every two weeks.

*How long does it take to make a video?*

It usually takes a few weeks to complete a film. We may get through one to three or four scenes a day.

*Do you go through any special routine in preparation for a shoot? Do you have to psyche yourself up?*

Not really. I do make sure not to cum the day before, however. I may work on my body, and I often eat celery or oysters to produce a larger load. Sometimes I stimulate myself by looking at an erotica magazine just before filming a scene.

*Aren't you afraid of contracting a disease?*

No. We take precautions. We always use spermicidal agents that have been proven to kill the AIDS virus on contact, and now we often use condoms. In addition, I eat well, exercise, get plenty of rest, and I have a healthy mind and positive outlook. All of those things come into play when you talk about health. Since my days as a Corpsman I have been particularly health conscious. I like to point out to people that the end product—the video—is for fantasizing, which serves as a safe sex sexual outlet.

*You were in the service?*

I was in the Navy for four years.

*What was that like for you?*

A wonderful experience. I loved the travel and my job as a surgical technician. One of my job responsibilities was to run VD tests on the guys.

*Do you have yourself checked regularly?*

At least every two months. I usually go to the Edmunds Center in West L.A. I realize that I have a responsibility to my co-workers as well as to myself.

*What would you like to be doing five years from now?*

I would like to do talk show interviews, and be heavily into behind-the-scenes work in film by then. I should also have my degree by then.

*Are you studying film?*

Yes, I'm studying it in college now and plan to transfer to USC to do graduate work. I'm already doing some post production work on the films I'm appearing in.

*Which college?*

Valley.

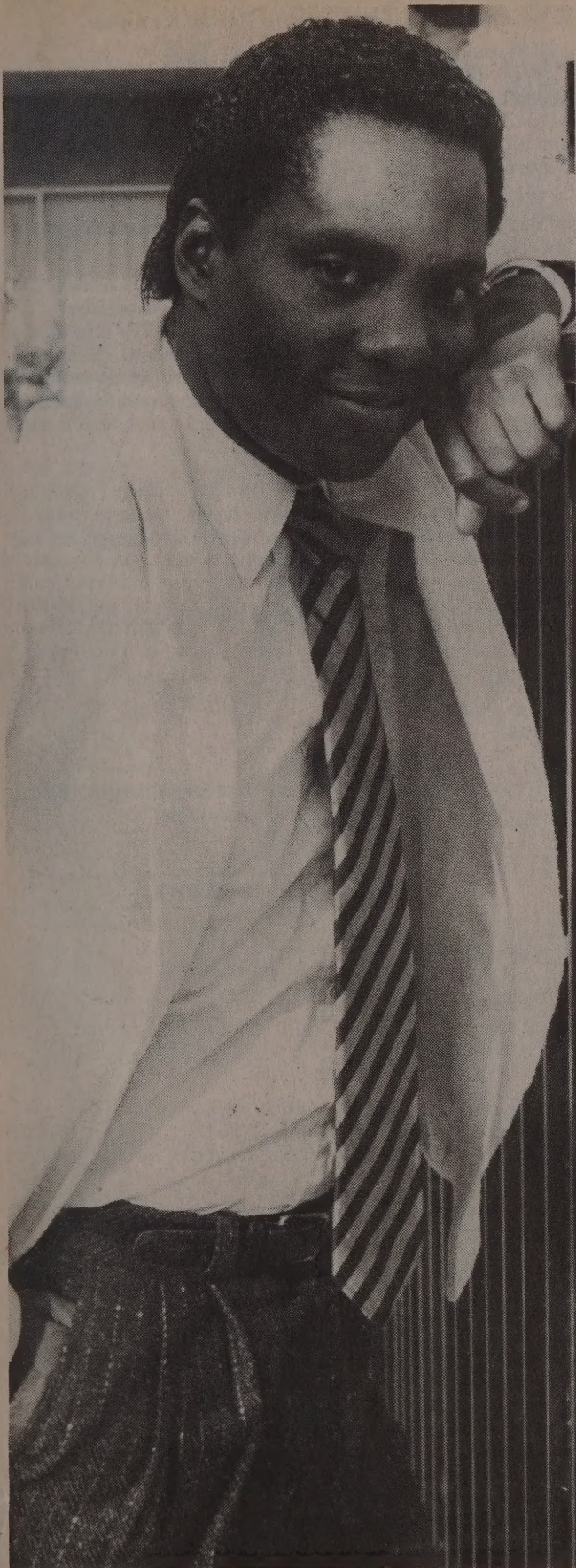
*And what will you be doing ten years from now?*

I hope to be retired by then.

*Have you any interest in, if I may use the term, "legitimate" acting?*

Some interest, but I don't really consider myself an





Randy Cochran. Photo by Revon Kyle Banneker.

actor. I danced in *Coming to America*, and have a good chance of appearing in the upcoming TV show of the same name. I also appeared in Clint Eastwood's *Bird*. When I first came to L.A. I detested the thought of becoming an actor. I had a roommate who was an actor, and he was constantly going back and forth to workshops and screen tests. In my industry, the director will come over and talk to me about a new part; I don't have to ask for parts.

*So you're sincerely saying that starring in and producing erotic films is your sole career?*

By all means. And I want that to be clear. I am devoting my life to this effort. Most of the guys you see in the tapes are in them for a few bucks or because the work serves as a diversion for a few years. This is a job and a career for me. One has to really want to do it; that is, you gotta not only be in it, but also be of it. There's one guy, for example, who has an agent. He calls the agent for work, and the agent calls back with work but can't find him for two days. That's not how it should be. For me this is business, it's commitment.

*How much are you paid to do a video?*

The pay is based on what we call "pop shots" or "cum shots." For blacks, it's still rather low. I get a maximum of about \$1000 for a day's shooting.

*How long is a day's work?*

Anywhere from 2 to 12 hours.

*You are currently running an ad in one of the gay magazines in which you call yourself "Studman of the 80s & L.A.'s #1 black erotica actor," and you offer certain services. Is that lucrative, and how does it fit in with your acting?*

To be honest, the videos I do are mainly advertisement for my call boy service. And the service is actually more lucrative than the videos.

*What do you charge for your call boy services?*

Usually between \$100 and \$300, depending on the location, time of day, distance I must travel, and what the job calls for.

*Isn't there an element of danger in all that?*

There is, but usually there's no problem.

*You said "usually."*

Well, once I encountered a guy who was a bit of a jerk. He called about 3:30 in the morning, I invited him over, and when I didn't get a full erection within the first 10 seconds he proceeded to go off. It got to the point where I had to force him to leave.

*Oh, you can fight, too?*

Yeah. I can take care of myself. But I'm usually a very mellow guy unless provoked.

*We've heard criticisms that you are mostly into the white thing. How do you respond to that?*

Not true at all. I know who I am. Color doesn't come into play. I like men. I consider this the Cosby decade. Black films are big money makers, but there are just not enough of them being made. I was surprised to learn, though, that almost half of the black erotic actors don't want to work with other blacks. I don't understand that. That was the case with one all-black film I did, and the final product suffered because of it.

*To set the record straight on another matter, it has been said that your popularity has gone to your head, that you often snub people. Any truth to that one?*

None at all. I feel that I go out of my way to be especially nice to people. One of the reasons I work a lot is



because I get along well with almost anyone. I suspect that what may have given rise to those rumors is the fact that I'm shy. I've gotten better, but the fact that I'm still basically shy means that in a club I would almost never be the first to speak.

*How does a shy person get in front of a camera and perform?*

I figure there's just one person behind the camera, and during the shoot you're concentrating on your assignment anyway. Also, the bright lights make you blind to most of the people on the set.

*Do you get to choose whom you want to play opposite, and can you get turned on by just anyone?*

I've never really been concerned about trying to choose the cast. I'd say 99.9 percent of the performers are really nice people. And yes, I can perform with any actor or actress. I did do a video recently, though, starring full-figured girls. I didn't get off on them so eagerly. I think it's called *Big Girls Wanna Have Fun, Too* or something like that.

*Your ability to rise to the occasion anytime with anyone means you're just naturally hot, right?*

Well, let's just say I have a high sex drive.

*Of all the films you've played in, what is your personal favorite?*

I guess it would be the one called *Heat Waves*. We filmed that aboard a 110-foot yacht that belonged to Liz Taylor, during a four-day cruise to the Catalina Islands. It had a nice cast, a very attractive cast.

*Have you appeared in any straight videos?*

No, only bisexual, transsexual, and gay.

*Who are some of your favorite erotica stars?*

Well, I guess Chad Douglas would be one, and I like Al Parker a lot.

*What about Jeff Stryker?*

He's very attractive—the films do him no justice. But he's really shy. I've been to a few parties with him, but he always brings along a date—a girl! He considers himself straight.

*What about Joe Simmons?*

I've never met Joe, but we've talked on the phone several times. He seems to be a really great guy. I was in New York last week, and we talked. He helped me get some work while I was there. He's probably one of the few blacks in the business who is serious about it. He's in New York, though, and that's not the place to be if you're serious about this industry. It's all happening in L.A.

*Were you in New York on business?*

Yes. I did 36 erotic dance shows at the Show Palace, and I also appeared on the Robin Byrd Show. That's a talk show that profiles a lot of erotica film actors.

*How does your family feel about your career?*

They are very supportive. That includes both parents, my brother, and three sisters.

*What are your hobbies?*

I like botany, and I raise tropical fish. I have four tanks, the largest being a 55 gallon. I love nature. I also raise finches and cockatiels. I'm into exotic pets like boa constrictors. I like guinea pigs, and a skunk would be nice.

*Any other interests?*

Well, I'm a pretty good pool player, and I play in the L.A. Pool League. I'm captain of the Driveshaft's pool team. Traveling is a passion of mine. I've been to France,

Belgium, Holland, Australia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Japan. And I lived in Hawaii for a year.

*Are you recognized on the street?*

Yeah, it's neat. For example, in New York last week when I left the Show Palace after performances, there would be a group of people waiting outside with flowers and all. They knew me from the videos. Here in L.A., I'm recognized in stores, and once at a Prince concert.

*What do the people say?*

They tell me they like my work, and I usually get a few offers.

*How do you feel when you see yourself on screen? Do you feel like you're watching yourself or someone else?*

Oh, very much myself. In fact, I feel like it's almost too much me, sometimes. I feel very good about it. I don't necessarily like the way blacks come across on some of the box covers, though. Often the lighting and makeup is not right.

*Do you consider yourself bi or gay?*

Definitely gay. Since age 3.

*You actually remember that far back?*

Yeah. I was very conscious of erotic feelings as far back as when I was potty training.

*Use any drugs, Randy?*

Only a little weed. I stay away from everything else.

*Any lovers, Randy?*

No.

*Ever had one?*

Nope.

*Do you want one?*

Actually, I've recently given it some thought. But I think I've still got too much bachelor in me.

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## PARTIAL VIDEOGRAPHY

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All American Boys in Heat  
Best of Stallion  
Big Girls Wanna Have Fun, Too  
Black Force  
Black Bucks  
Black, No. 50  
Black Lust, White Passion  
Black Attack  
Black Bullet, Vol. 12  
Black Sweat  
Black Magic  
Blacklode  
Coming from Above  
Crazed  
Deep Chocolate  
Gigit Goes Bi  
Hard Line  
Hauling and Balling  
Head of the Class  
Heat Waves  
Interracial Affairs  
Making It Big  
Men on Site  
Moca Madness  
Private Pool Party  
Pump  
Rod's Raiders  
San Francisco Packing Company  
Soul and Salsa



# Keeping the IRS Happy

## Income tax reminders for lesbians and gay men

By Christine Tripp

April 15 is the last day of the tax filing season. It's the last acceptable day to tell the IRS how much money you earned from all sources in order to make a determination about how much tax you will have to pay.

There are lots of mines on the tax battlefield, but here are a few of the more common traps for which you want to keep a sharp lookout. There are many more, and it's always wise to consult a tax expert.

Let's begin with "all income sources." The obvious income sources would include earned income from a job or business you operate, bonuses, prizes won on game shows, etc. But don't forget to include interest earned on bank accounts. On the other hand, money received from inheritance or gifts is not considered income.

The IRS will usually call a person in for audit if they discover all income earned has not been declared. Remember, the employer or person paying money is required to furnish the IRS with a copy of a 1099 or W2 indicating how much was paid to you. The IRS takes that information (which is keyed to your social security number) and compares it with your tax return (which is also keyed to your social security number) on their \$50 million computer. The penalty for not including complete income information is 50 percent of the tax owed plus 20 percent interest.

Another problem that a lot of people encounter is not receiving their W2s or 1099s on time or at all. Employers and banking institutions are required to provide this information to you (and to the IRS) by the end of January following the tax year. For 1988, these forms should have been received by January 31, 1989. If you have not received this information, or you disagree with it, you

should complete your return with the correct information and send it to the IRS with a written explanation.

One perennial question is "Can I claim my lover as a dependent on my 1040?" Rules for claiming others as dependents on your return are very stringent. The dependent must have lived in your home for the entire year, that is, from January 1 to December 31. The dependent must have received less than \$1,950 of gross income. Gross income does not include welfare or social security benefits. You must have provided over half of the dependent's support in 1988. Your dependent must not have filed a joint return and your dependent must be a citizen of the United States. Fail to meet even one of these tests, and you will not be able to claim the dependent. If you itemize your deductions, you may include medical expenses.

The tax table and tax rate schedules have been re-drafted for 1988. However, there are fewer write-offs available. Remember, this is a capitalist system in which we live, and unless you participate in the system by owning a home or running a business, many allowable deductions will not be available to you. Tax write-offs generally go to homeowners, investors, business owners, independent contractors, and others in similar situations. If you have very few write-offs, it will be to your benefit to take the standard deduction and use the 1040A tax return.

This article is not designed to make you a tax expert. However, these are some of the issues that the African American lesbian and gay community needs to keep in mind as we prepare our tax returns for 1988. If you have any questions, be sure to contact your tax preparer or attorney for more information or clarification.

The image shows a collage of 1988 IRS tax forms. The primary form is Form 1040, 'U.S. Individual Income Tax Return', with the year '1988' prominently displayed. Other visible forms include Form 1040A, 'Simplified Income Tax Return', and Form 1040EZ, 'Easiest Income Tax Return'. The collage also includes various instructions, a checklist for 'Step 2: Check your filing status', and a section for 'Itemized Deductions' (Schedule A). The forms are arranged in a layered, overlapping manner, showing different parts of the tax filing process. The year '1988' is repeated on multiple forms, indicating the specific tax year for which these forms are intended.



# Community News

## 500 Attend Los Angeles Leadership Conference; Watson, Waters, Cole Address Black Gay Group

By Christopher Allen Riles and Alan Smithee

With the theme, "Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing for the 21st Century," nearly 500 people packed the Second Annual Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, February 17-20, 1989 at the University Hilton in Los Angeles.

Conference awards were presented to Whoopi Goldberg, Sylvester, Unity Fellowship Church and political activist Pat Norman. Goldberg's award was accepted by her father, who used the occasion to declare publicly his homosexuality.

Among the notables who addressed the Conference were California State Senator Diane Watson, California State Assemblywoman Maxine Waters and entertainer Natalie Cole.

### AIDS Institute Convenes

Activities during the four-day event included workshops, seminars, a luncheon, a banquet, a concert and a dance. Allied activities included an all-day workshop on AIDS in the African American gay community called the "AIDS Institute"; a strategy session for representatives of local and national black gay and lesbian organizations called the "Leadership Roundtable"; and a benefit luncheon for the National Minority AIDS Council.

"The Conference began to speak to the diversity in our community," said Phill Wilson, Leadership Forum chair. "It attracted people who were moved by the excitement of Sylvester's music to people who were interested in forming a five-year political agenda. If we can continue and expand on this type of celebration of diversity, then we can conclude that this Conference was a success."

The Conference was convened on Friday morning with the First Annual AIDS Institute, a special one-day forum which focused on AIDS issues and the impact of the epidemic on black gays and lesbians. Workshops topics included "Starting an AIDS Project," "Case Management for Black PWAs," and "Developing Educational Strategies for Black Gay Men," "Managing AIDS Hospices and Residential Facilities" and "Developing a PWA Coalition." Several workshops focused on writing effective grant and funding proposals.

A reception for Conference participants was held at the Minority AIDS Project Friday evening. The social included a tour; a history of the Center; a speech by Rev. Renee McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; and entertainment by Blacberri, a singer who marries social conscious lyrics to a variety of musical styles.

### Catch One Gets Real

At the Catch One Disco later that evening, in a tribute to the late Sylvester, Chaka Kahn headlined a group of entertainers which included comedian Michael Collier, and singers Jeanie Tracey and Kim Miller. The stylishly-dressed crowd danced to Sylvester's memory as the VJ played "Living For the City," "You Made Me Feel Mighty Real" and "Some One Like You."

Following a videotape of Sylvester's New Year's Eve

appearance on *The Late Show* with Joan Rivers, Phill Wilson opened the evening by saying, "Yes, Sylvester, you made us feel mighty real." The Second Annual James Baldwin Memorial Arts and Letters Award, which was bestowed to Sylvester, was presented to the late singer's mother. She attended the ceremonies along with his sister and brother-in-law. Last year, the award was received by author and educator Audre Lorde.

The opening plenary on Saturday morning featured a welcoming address by Wilson; greetings from Morris Kight, chair of the Los Angeles Human Relations Commission; a presentation by Gabe Bustamonte from Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley; and a keynote address by Rev. Carl Bean, founder and executive director of the Minority AIDS Project.

Following the opening ceremonies, registrants chose from among seven morning and seven afternoon workshops. In addition, there were poetry readings, a black gay art exhibit and individual women's and men's caucuses. The men's caucus focused on how to empower African American gay men.

Among the workshops offered were "How to Set-up a 501(c)3 Organization," "Intimacy and Relationships with



Natalie Cole



Sex," "Printing, Publishing, Promotion and Publicity," "How to Operate a Small Business," "Black and Beautiful Lesbians" and "War on Privacy Rights."

### Johnson Keynotes Banquet

The most elegant event of the Conference was the black tie dinner held in the Grand Ballroom of the University Hotel Saturday evening. Entertainment was provided by J'ai performing what she called "a musical tribute to the black divas of the blues" titled "An Evening at the Cotton Club." She sang accompanied by a band and historic slides.

The activities of the evening, which was emceed by Dr. Leonard Simon, included a welcome address by Phill Wilson and a keynote speech by Deborah Johnson.

In an address entitled, "Integrating Ourselves," Johnson said, "We are building bridges and coalitions. We are not trying to get power from somewhere else. We are exercising our own. We are not asking for a seat at the table of another. We are preparing our own meal and sharing it with all of those who would partake. We now have a collective voice that is being heard by politicians, educators, civic leaders, entertainers, the clergy, and the medical community."

Rev. Carl Bean accepted the Harriet Tubman Organization of the Year Award from ex-Hill Street Blues star Taurean Blaque on behalf of Unity Fellowship Church. Pat Norman was honored with the Bayard Rustin Memorial Award for her political activism.

Following a Sunday morning worship service, the Conference continued with 18 workshops divided in two sessions. Participants chose from such topics as "The Law and Your Relationship," "Fundraising," "Internalized Homophobia and Internalized Racism," "The Lesbian Forum," "Stress Reduction and You" and "The Closet and Careers."

### Cole Makes \$1000 Surprise Gift

Later in the day, the Leadership Forum hosted a luncheon to benefit the National Minority AIDS Council. Natalie Cole presented a check for \$2800 from the Conference to the Council, and added a surprise gift of \$1000 of her own funds. Assemblywoman Maxine Waters spoke to the gathering, suggesting that they get more politically involved. "I am extremely optimistic. You must be optimistic and believe you can empower yourselves and others, making this place better," she said.

Bobby Smith, volunteer coordinator at the Minority AIDS Project, said the luncheon was dedicated to the memory of all those who have died from AIDS, the courage of all those living with AIDS and the support of all those working to end the epidemic in our and all communities.

The Fred Garnett Memorial Award, which last year went to Dionne Warwick, was presented this year to Whoopi Goldberg for her work in the AIDS community. Goldberg's father, the Rev. Robert Johnson, accepted the award because the comedian was out of the country.

Prior to the luncheon, several people, including Cleo Manago of the Watts Health Foundation and the New Alliance Party, circulated a document criticizing the efforts of the Leadership Forum for their lack of attention to the financially depressed people of the community and their inability to afford the Conference.

The group managed to express their concerns to Natalie Cole who sympathized and invited them to the luncheon and to be guests at her table. Cole's remarks to the gathering suggested that the Conference organizers should always have a strong inclusive commitment to all people who wish to be a part of this or any organization promising to serve the community.

*The following are excerpts from a statement circulated at the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference February 19, 1989 by Cleo Manago on behalf of the newly-formed organization, Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice.*

...This Conference does not address the sector of our community that needs leadership and empowerment the most: poor, working class and grassroots people. Last year, the black lesbian and gay community of Los Angeles did not attend this Conference because we were excluded from the building process of a Conference allegedly designed for us and we were offended!...

...Who elected them as the symbol of black lesbian and gay leadership? They are West Hollywood (white gay community) appointed and self-serving.

...[We need a] ...vehicle whose agenda also includes reaching out to PWAs, lesbian mothers, gay fathers, lesbian and gay teens, homeless and runaway children, many of our teens are gay or AIDS bashed in the schools and in the community which causes them to runaway and sometimes to become HIV infected due to living on the streets, survival, sex and drugs, homeless people with AIDS, who are otherwise denied treatment unless we build something ourselves...

...The organizers of this Conference were not familiar with establishments located in or frequented by the black gay and lesbian community.

...The creators of the Conference, BWMT L.A., in their eight (8) year history have done nothing in or for the black community.

...Literature last year, or this year, was not put in the local black clubs to advertise the "event." Are we wanted at the Conference or not?

As it did last year, the Conference planning committee devised a work exchange program allowing people to volunteer their time during the Conference in lieu of paying the registration fee. In addition, the Conference planning committee created two special funds, a scholarship fund and a people with AIDS fund. This money was set aside to sponsor people with special needs and PWAs who otherwise would be unable to attend the Conference.

According to a spokesperson for the Forum, it is Conference policy to turn away no one for inability to pay. The Forum fully funded or subsidized over 60 people attending the Conference, according to the spokesperson.

### Five-Year Plan

The last official event of the Conference was the "Leadership Roundtable" which took place Monday morning. Angela Bowen, co-chair of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, led a discussion among representatives of organizations from all over the country to brainstorm alternatives for the next five years. Senator Diane Watson also spoke to the assembly making a hard-nosed, realistic assessment of the mainstream political climate as it relates to African American gay concerns.

The Third Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and Second AIDS Institute is scheduled for February 16-19, 1990. Locations under consideration are New Orleans, Louisiana and Atlanta, Georgia.



# Gay, Lesbian Jazz Org Forms in Los Angeles

By Chi Hughes

"I'm ready to cook," says Gene Devre founder of Jazz Coalescence, a new group for African American gay men and lesbians interested in the "perpetuity of classic (Charlie Parker, Benny Carter) jazz music."

Borne out of Devre's interest to "generate more interest in our community" about jazz as a part of the heritage of black Americans, Jazz Coalescence is composed of gay men and lesbians of different races and ages. After reading announcements in gay publications about classical music or rock groups forming, Devre decided to form his own group.

Currently consisting of 10 members, Jazz Coalescence meets monthly to view videos, talk classic jazz and have jam sessions. Devre also sees the organization as a productive alternative to the bar scene. The life of the group depends on the interest of the community, according to Devre.

While Jazz Coalescence does not perform publicly, it is food for thought, admits Devre who currently sings around town with a group called Interplay. For now the focus appears to be on making music and possibility of reaching new levels of creativity.

A marketing representative for a major music company, Devre has toyed with the idea of opening his own jazz club in the future but first would like to use the resources available in the community. For more information on the next meeting to take place in early March call 213-255-0400 or write to The Jazz Coalescence, Box 42A525, Los Angeles, CA 90050.

# Minorities to Receive Increase in Services

By Chi Hughes

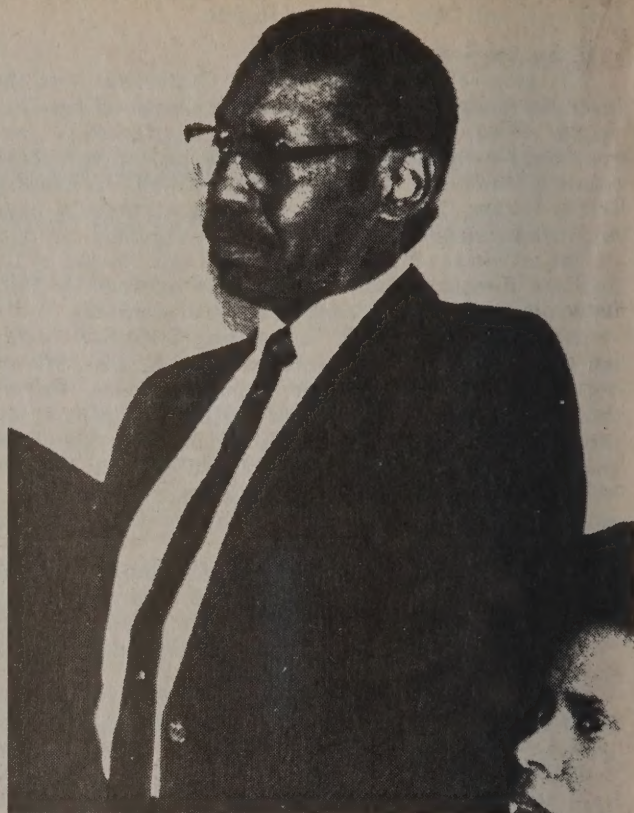
A recent 6-month (renewable) grant from the Centers for Disease Control has allowed the ACCESS program of the Counseling Department of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center to develop an outreach project targeting African Americans and Latinos in the Los Angeles area.

Tom Soto, a newly hired mental health clinician, heads the new ACCESS project. ACCESS, an acronym for AIDS-affected Counseling, Consultation, Education and Support Services, is attempting to increase mental health services to AIDS-affected members of the black and Latino communities who might be facing the emotional and mental stress associated with being HIV positive.

Soto views this project as an essential element to the provision of services to populations where traditional mental health approaches may not have worked. Some of his responsibilities have included sensitizing staff to cultural differences as well as increasing visibility of the services already available through the Counseling department.

Occasionally Soto makes presentations to other mental health agencies and is willing to speak to other interested groups as a means of networking and creating alternative and creative approaches to mental health.

For more information on this new project and the numerous groups currently meeting through the ACCESS program call 213-552-5373, ext. 257.



Rev. Robert Johnson

# Whoopi Goldberg's Dad Comes Out of Closet

Guests at a recent AIDS benefit luncheon were stunned when Rev. Robert Johnson, accepting an award for his daughter, comedian Whoopi Goldberg, revealed that he is gay. The audience, mostly African Americans and AIDS activists attending the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference at the University Hilton Hotel, reacted with nods of approval and with applause as the minister repeatedly used "we" and other self-inclusive terms in referring to lesbians and gays of color.

Speaking about the oppressiveness of closeted gay life in Harlem before the 60s, Johnson reminisced, "...somehow we would get together...we had no power as you do now."

Whoopi Goldberg, perhaps America's most popular female comic, has focused considerable energy and attention on the AIDS crisis, especially as its impact on people of color has grown. She frequently includes pro-gay bits in her routines and ridicules homophobia.

Goldberg's father sometimes addressed the audience as if he were a veteran exhorting young troops into battle, at other times as if all present were his spiritual children. "The seeds we planted so many years ago have blossomed into the most wonderful gardens," he said. Emotion audible in his voice, he urged black lesbians and gays to continue to gather, strategize and celebrate together.

Goldberg was given the Frederick Garnett Memorial Award named for a black AIDS activist who recently died.



# Odoms, Emery to Head GLCSC Committees

By Frank Hall

Two African American gay men were elected to Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center chairmanships at a meeting held January 23, 1989. Dennis Odoms will head the Center's Development Committee and Travis Emery was selected to lead the Building and Grounds Committee.

"The Center has been and is making positive strides in many directions," said Odoms, who was co-chair of the Center's board of directors last year. He sees this as evidenced by the composition of the board which includes four minority members: himself and Emery, plus Enrique Fernandez and Umberto Gonzalez. Still, he says, the Center needs input and participation by minorities who have backgrounds in architecture, program development and human resources.

Dennis was encouraged to run for re-election as co-chair of the board was decided instead to encourage more participation in leadership roles by giving someone else the co-chair opportunity.

Odoms and the members of his Development Committee are also seeking to increase women and minority involvement. "We are looking for people of color and especially for women," he said.

Emery is involved with the Center's Citrus House Project which houses homeless young people. Citrus House has two sections: one for adolescents aged 13-17 and other for young adults aged 18-23. Participants are counseled in various self-help programs. One such program instructs them on "preparing for the world of work," including interview for jobs, deportment, positive self-imagery and similar employment skills.

"A more important part of this program is teaching these youngsters how to be responsible for themselves," according to Odoms.

# Ugandans Flee AIDS Medical Researchers

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Villagers in southern Uganda are fleeing into the bush to avoid contact with a medical team monitoring the spread of AIDS and counselling victims of the killer disease, a doctor said last month. "They think we are going to give them injections that will eventually kill them, and that the injections would keep others sexually impotent for the next nine years," said Dr. David Sserwadda, the leader of the team.

Sserwadda said some Rakai district villagers have fled their homes as early as 5 a.m. before the arrival of the team.

Rakai is 125 miles south of Uganda's capital, Kampala. The country's first cases of AIDS—then locally called "slim"—were diagnosed in Rakai region.

Sserwadda's team is working on a joint program by the local Makerere University and Columbia University of New York City to determine the number of AIDS victim in the area. One of its activities is collecting blood samples. The doctors, in a door-to-door campaign, are also providing treatment for other ailments, such as malaria.

"We cannot go out killing people," Sserwadda said in weekend public meeting called to reassure villagers. "The government wants to know how many AIDS victims are

# Ex-Junkie Works to Stem AIDS Epidemic

BOSTON (AP)—Faced with the choice of trying to kick heroin or going back to jail, Jon Parker fought his way 14 years ago from the murky world of Boston's shooting galleries to the academic heights of Yale University.

Now he's back on the streets. He again faces a possible jail term, but this time he's charged with illegally handing out clean needles to people he used to run with—many of whom already have contracted AIDS by sharing dirty needles.

Parker, 33, said he doesn't want to go to jail, but he's willing to risk it to try to change the Massachusetts requirement for a prescription to buy a hypodermic syringe.

"People look down on addicts, but it's through them that AIDS is going to spread to the heterosexual community," he says. "People are going to have to realize that."

Parker is founder of a 50-member organization called the AIDS Brigade, which includes Yale graduate students as well as former addicts and convicts. It was formed about four years ago and distributes AIDS education materials, bleach and needles in New Haven, Connecticut, New York City, New Jersey and Boston.

Critics say he's a renegade, too far from mainstream efforts to curb the spread of AIDS. State health officials estimate there are about 40,000 addicts in Massachusetts, and about one-third are believed to be carrying the AIDS virus.

Mayor Raymond Flynn backed a needle exchange program, but it was rejected by the City Council. Dr. George A. Lamb, first deputy commissioner for the Boston Department of Health and Hospitals, supported the attempt at a needle exchange program and said he will testify at Parker's trial, which he hopes will revive interest in the program.

Addicts meet AIDS Brigade workers in dingy restaurants and on street corners to get their sets of needles, known as "the works."

Parker was arrested this summer and charged with illegal possession of hypodermic syringes, which he buys legally in Vermont. The charge is a misdemeanor, but Parker requested a jury trial, which will probably take place this spring.

Parker says his personal history makes him a better judge of how addicts are likely to respond. He shot heroin as a teenager and robbed drug stores for money and supplies. At 17, he served more than two years time, earning his high school equivalency diploma in jail. A month after his release, in 1974, he was caught violating parole and given the choice of checking into a drug rehabilitation center or going back to jail.

He chose reform.

Since then, Parker has worked a variety of jobs, including driving a cab and a few bouts as a local boxer, to get money to help pay his way through Hampshire College in Amherst, where he studied biology, and then to Yale's School of Epidemiology and Public Health, where he is completing work on a masters degree in public health.

in the region in case a cure is announced today or tomorrow."

Robina Kasada, Rakai district administrator, told the doctors to be patient because it takes time for people in the region to accept new ideas.



# Women's Group Slates Programs for March

By Chi Hughes

Continuing its outreach to women of color, the Lapis program of the Alcoholism Center for Women is sponsoring several projects for the month of March.

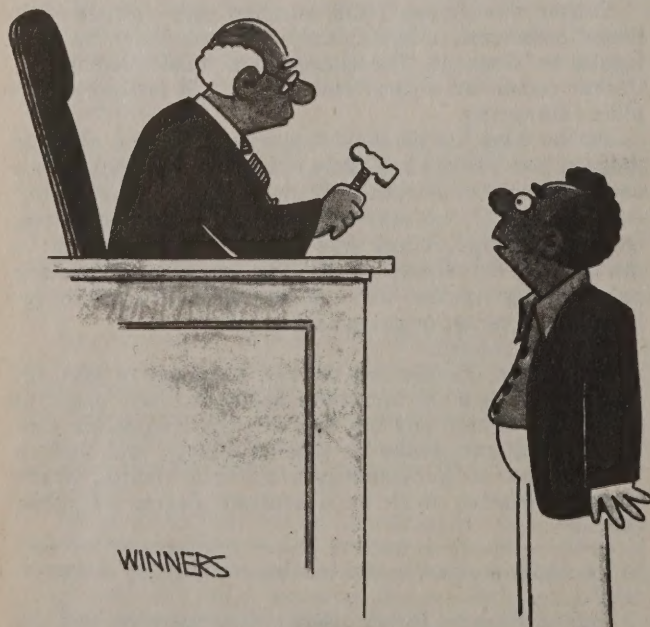
Beginning March 4, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. is "The Power of Image" the fifth workshop in the Creativity Series. Facilitated by Sylvia Rhue, Ph.D., the workshop will provide an opportunity to view positive and empowering images of lesbians of color on film and video. Pre-registration (\$5.00) is required.

Completing the Creativity Series is "Creating Personal Power Objects." Rosalie Ortega, artist and teacher, will lead participants through empowerment through artistic expression. Through the creation of personal power objects, participants will be advised on ways to master obstacles that impede personal expression. Pre-registration (\$5.00) for the March 11 workshop, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., is required.

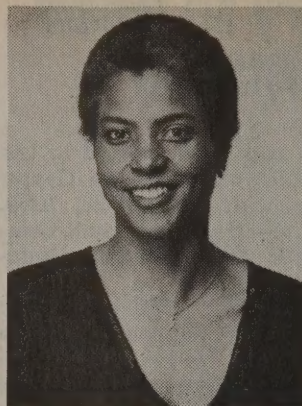
Clarissa Chandler, ACW Director of Prevention and Community Services will facilitate "Black Women's Support Group." The closed group will meet for six consecutive Wednesday evenings starting March 8 through April 12 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The support group has been created for women who prefer the company of women and is designed as a safe place to share joys, sorrows, challenges and hopes. The series is free but pre-registration is required.

The Women of Color Support Group will continue to meet every Monday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is a group where lesbians of color will have the opportunity to share/bond on a regular basis. There is no charge.

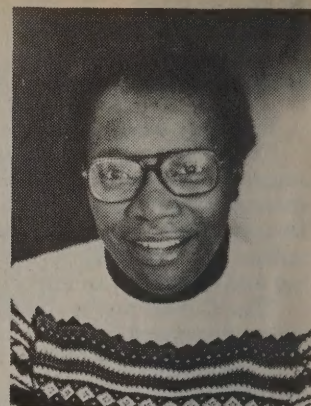
ACW is located at 1147 S. Alvarado St. in Los Angeles. No one will be turned away from any of the above activities due to lack of funds. For more information please call 213-381-7805.



"Couldn't we work something out? I like to get screwed and I'm HIV negative."



Cheryl Clarke



Pat Parker

## Parker, Clarke to Speak at Cal State, Bookstore

In honor of Women's History Month, the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library at Cal State L.A. will present poets Pat Parker and Cheryl Clarke on Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. in a joint reading in the Alumni Lounge of the University Student Union. The event is free and the public is invited.

They will also appear at A Different Light Bookstore Friday, March 31 at 7 p.m. The bookstore is located at 4014 Santa Monica Blvd. in Los Angeles. This event is also free.

Widely represented in literary journals and magazine anthologies, including *Gay and Lesbian Poetry in Our Time*, Pat Parker has published five volumes of poetry, most recently *Jonestown and other Madness*. She has read at many of the major universities in this country, and has taught poetry performances in non-traditional settings in the San Francisco area. A native of Texas, Parker lives in the San Francisco area.

Cheryl Clarke is also represented in a number of anthologies including *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology* and *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. She has published two books of poetry, *Narratives: Poems in the tradition of Black Women*.

Born in Washington D.C., Clarke was greatly influenced by the Black Power/Black Arts movement of the '60s during her years at Howard University. She considers herself to be a life-long student of Afro-American life and culture.

## Kenya Ranks 16th with 4,295 AIDS Cases

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenya, which had only one recorded AIDS case in 1984, had confirmed 4,295 victims of the deadly disease by the end of last year, a researcher said last month. Dr. George Gachihi told a scientific conference at the Kenya Medical Research Institute that Kenya ranked 16th in the world in prevalence of the disease on a per-capita basis.

Gachihi said Congo ranked fourth in the world on the basis of the number of cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome per capita, with Burundi sixth, Uganda seventh, Central African Republic 12th, Rwanda 13th and Zambia 14th.



# List February Stats on AIDS Cases in U.S.

ATLANTA (AP)—Here are the latest statistics on acquired immune deficiency syndrome in the United States, through February 20, as reported by the national Centers for Disease Control. These statistics have been rounded to the nearest whole percent. Cumulative totals are for AIDS cases reported since June 1981, and include 75 cases subsequently found to have occurred prior to that date.

## Number of Cases

Total cases reported since June 1981: 87,188.

Cases, year to date: 4,443.

Total deaths: 49,976, or 57 percent of all cases.

## Transmission Categories

Homosexual or bisexual males: 52,758, or 61 percent.

Intravenous drug abusers: 17,226, or 20 percent.

Homosexual male and drug abusers: 6,140, or 7 percent.

Heterosexual cases: 3,792, or 4 percent.

Transfusion or blood cases: 2,312, or 3 percent.

Hemophilia patients: 916, or 1 percent.

Children of parents with AIDS or at risk: 1,119, or 1 percent.

Undetermined transmission cause: 2,925, or 3 percent.

## Race

Cases among whites: 49,945, or 57 percent.

Cases among African Americans: 23,290, or 27 percent.

Cases among Hispanics: 13,154, or 15 percent.

Cases among Asians or Pacific Islanders: 507, or 1 percent.

Cases among American Indians or Alaskan natives: 97, or 0 percent.

## Age

Childhood cases (under age 13): 1,432, or 2 percent.

# BWMT Receives \$31K AIDS Education Grant

By Rene Seidel

Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles has voted to accept an AIDS education grant of \$31,000 offered to the group by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Phill Wilson, who had applied for the grant on behalf of BWMT/LA in November, will serve as project director.

The grant has specific goals and requirements. It makes provision for Wilson to be hired as a quarter-time consultant and another person, to be named later, to be hired in a three-quarter position to handle day-to-day project activities.

These activities include providing the group's "Hot-Horny-Healthy" parties for at least 500 black gay or bisexual men and training of new facilitators. According to Wilson, these parties are "creative alternatives to assist gay men in general and black gay men specifically in recapturing the excitement of pleasure of sexual contact in a safer environment." Anyone interested in hosting or participating in a workshop should call 213-664-4716.

The project will also produce a poster and calendar listing all the workshops for the entire year.

Although the grant objectives are focused on the African American gay and bisexual community, the AIDS education parties will remain open to anyone interested.



Kimberly J. Miller

# Kimberly Miller New MECLA Office Head

The Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles has appointed Kimberly J. Miller, a black woman, to the new position of office administrator. She has been an activist in the community for more than eight years, and previously was a business agent for the Service Employees International Union. In this capacity, Miller led the first Nurses' strike at the USC Medical Center. In 1986, she was also Southern California co-chair for the Labor Task Force to defeat Proposition 64.

Originally from Minneapolis, Miller is a talented singer and performer and she has appeared at many clubs in the area.

"We are thrilled that Kim has agreed to become our chief employee and to oversee our operations," said co-chair Bevan Dufty. "Her leadership is vital to our success, and we look forward to her taking a strong role with our Board in strengthening our PAC and building political power for the community."

# Magazine Finds Some Condoms Defective

NEW YORK—*Consumer Reports* has found samples of two models of latex condoms to be "grossly defective" and six others to be less reliable than desired, its publisher, Consumers Union, said recently.

Consumers Union tested 16,000 condoms, filling some with water and then checking for leaks, inflating others with air until they burst.

All passed government standards in the leakage test.

But two models—Lifestyles Extra Strength with Nonoxyol-9 and LifeStyles Nuda Plus—had a projected failure rate of 10 percent in the inflation test, poor enough for the magazine to rate them defective. The government does not use that test.



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

ANYONE WHO MISSED February's National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum 'cuz you hate being lectured at, also missed lots of opportunities to be leered at. Held mostly at the University Hilton across from USC, it sprawled events—and bodies—all over town from sundown Friday the 17th through Monday the 20th. Girlfriends, so *much* happened that weekend, we don't even know where to begin the dish!...

FRIDAY. **Chaka Kahn** truly performed at Catch One during the Conference "Tribute to Sylvester"—and we don't mean on-stage. Tale is told that she was evil as could be backstage, while opening act **Jeanie Tracy** was a sweetheart. But that's the difference between a star on her way up and one long gone down... Meanwhile out front, **Edwina Conley**, who was supposed to be handling Conference security, nearly caused bloodshed by showing up with Minority AIDS Project's **Lauren Metoyer**, whom a certain lady thought she already dibs on. Oops...**Constance Jones** whooshed in wearing flaming scarlet on sable—also known as red and black on Friday—in front of God and everybody...But **Alycee Lane** was hardly less dangerous wrapped in a white cloud-like thing stapled to her body with black suspenders and slacks, driving lesbians insane with passion and queens mad with envy...

SATURDAY. Ex-Hill Street Blues star **Taurean Blaque** tried to pass off as innocent the fact that he and **Rev. Carl Bean** of MAP once shared a dressing room. Bet that wasn't all they shared, generous as Rev is...The Conference banquet abounded with beauties, male and female. but BLK's **Alan Bell** and Conference planner, **Phill Wilson**, were dress to the minus nines: Alan, tall and thin, looked like he'd borrowed a short, fat man's clothes. Nobody could tell us what Phill's excuse was, but he needed one...Banquet emcee, **Dr. Len Simon**, was vigorously pursued by New York's **Harold Robinson** of Gay Men of African Descent, to what (or whose) end we know not...Len's nephew, **Martial Rio** of BWMT obviously caught his pursuer, 'cuz he showed up at the banquet packing the same piece he first flaunted last December at Phill Wilson and **Chris Brownlie's** anniversary party: **Bill Weinberger** of Gay Lawyers for Human Rights (whose divorce, we hear, is not even final yet. Shh!)...**Mark Haile**, who handled Special Needs for the Conference and has always had a need for Asain lovers, introduced everyone to his new Latino amour, but was spied exiting a very black Philadelphian's room very late. Now isn't that special?...

SUNDAY. Surely **Colin Robinson** of New York's Other Countries wasn't surprised that we weren't surprised? Next time you show up at a luncheon in a frock, get somebody else—us—to do your toilette and coiffure. Otherwise, no one will ever notice that you're in drag, honey...**Dennis Odums** of GLCSC and **Dr. Jon Peterson**, AIDS researcher at UCSF, were dazzled by **Dr. Morgan Jackson**, out from Virginia. But Dennis gave up the chase when he found out that Morgan was headed to a **Black Jack** party that night. So Morgan arrived and left the party—which was (unbeknownst to Dennis) a clothes-on mixer held in honor of the conference—with **Vernal Scott**. Serves you right, Dennis, for being such a prissprude. Vernal, of London's Black Community AIDS Team, was the Conference wetdream with his English accent, Oxbridge polish and hot bod. Apparently, Dr.

Jackson had heard about Maggie's plans to cut Britain's free health care, so he volunteered to give Vernal a physical back at the hotel—all night long. That pushy New Yorker, **Eric Perez** of Men of All Colors Together, was shameless enough to go for sloppy seconds, so poor Vernal seems never to have gotten the chance to taste the native fruits of Southern California...**Brandy Moore**, that mahogany Mandingo who assists Assembly Speaker **Willie Brown**, was rumored to have helped himself to sizzling lawyer **Bill Meredith**, but Brandy swears it was a smokeless fire. Uh-huh...MAP's **Eugene Cornelius**, self-appointed guardian of gay propriety, condescended to show up at the Black Jack reception, sending all the girls who swore they'd never be seen at Black Jack scurrying for the corners in the back in the dark—to no avail 'cuz 'Nelius knows what they did and with whom. Trash talks, dear. 'Nelius claims that when there came a knocking, knocking at his hotel door later that night, he turned away the pining local artist. Away or over? Uh-huh...**Bob Finney** of Lesbian/Gay ACLU insists that there were workshops on Saturday and Sunday, but to date this remains unconfirmed gossip, to which we attach no credence...

MONDAY. **Charles Stewart** tried to make up for letting his boss, **Senator Diane Watson**, bore the Roundtable audience to sleep in the morning by reviving **Le Salon Noir** that afternoon at Gorky's. The Salon was once a wanna-be black, gay thinktank, but its members always spent less time thinking than getting tanked... We don't understand all the fuss about **Natalie Cole** at the luncheon. **Cleo Manago** and **Rolonda Teal** of Watts Health Foundation simply discovered a new fund-raising tool; you corner a guest star and complain that you've been excluded from participation in the Leadership Roundtable for being too poor; said star then rises up, reads everybody, and promises to pick up your tab. Of course, be sure not to tell your star that the Roundtable is free. Oh, and need we mention that the disgruntled duo didn't show up...San Fran's wanna-be County Supervisor, **Pat Norman**, was pissed purple when she found out somebody held an AIDS meeting at the Hilton and nobody invited her. Pat, luv, don't you have some campaign debts you can go pay off or something?...**Sylvia Rhue** of GLCSC was just all aglow; could it have anything to do with that Bay area fox we saw her with every-time we turned a corner? Awwwww...By and large, everyone seems to have gotten off on the Conference (or on somebody who attended), with the highlight having been Friday's Tribute to Sylvester and the lowdark Monday's Roundtable.

THE HOLLYWOOD KIDS tell why **Prince** doesn't drive in L.A. anymore. Seems his Purple Highness used to have a beautiful Rolls Royce with a big bodyguard/chauffeur until one day he fired the guy and started driving himself. One night he was on the Ventura Freeway when he got a flat tire and didn't know how to fix it. What's a Platinum record seller to do? He called another bodyguard/chauffeur to come out and fix the Rolls on his car phone. When he got back into town he sold the Rolls the next day and now only uses limousines.

AND...according to **Michael Musto**, one of the key reasons boy/doll **Michael "Leave Me Alone" Jackson** parted with manager **Frank DiLeo** is that MJ's last two singles only went to No. 11 and No.7 in *Billboard*. And that's the manager's fault? Michael should learn that No. 11 just means you try harder.

IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMETHING we don't (ha!), and you just have to spill the T to someone, we swear it'll never pass our lips: just dial our rumor recorder at (213) 410-0808 and whisper.



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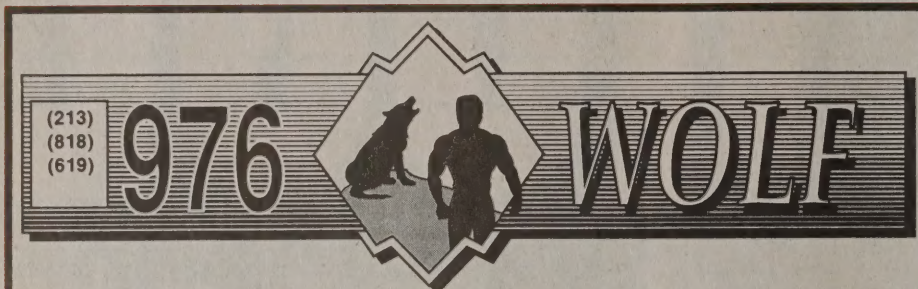


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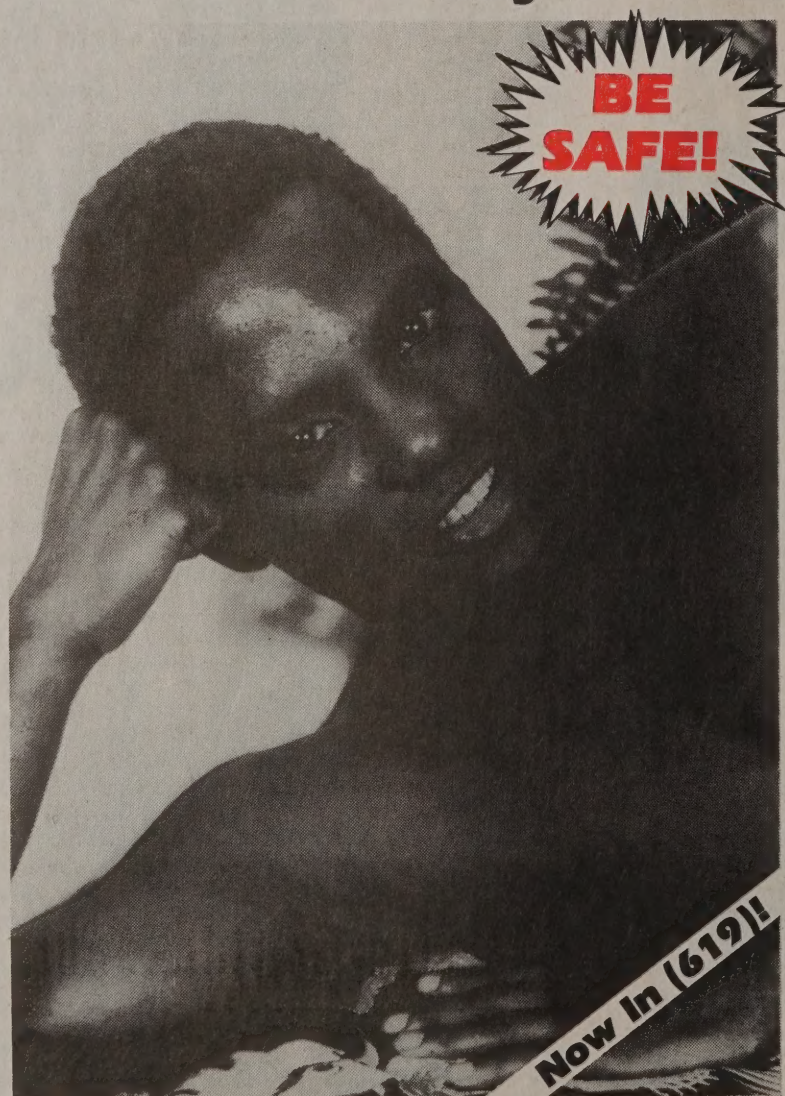


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Need a private unlisted phone number that you can give out as your home or business phone and also acts as an answering machine with your own voice? \$19.95/month. Call Crystal 213-964-1823. (4)

Nechama Jewish AIDS education, advocacy, referral. 213-653-8313.

Personal health and fitness instructor. Phone Mack at 213-465-2551.

## EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Black gay male seeking light cleaning jobs. Reasonable rates possible other things. Call 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Charles 213-622-9635. (4)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

BLK needs news reporters to handle special assignments. Part time. Women especially encouraged to apply. BLK, Box 83812, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Call Alan at 213-410-0808. (TF)

## FOR SALE

1975 BMW, great condition. Must sell now. \$2700 or best offer. 213-665-3479. Jerry. (3)

Compaq Portable Plus computer. Has 640K RAM, and stock shock-mounted 10 MB disk. Includes AST 6-Pak. Perfect condition. Selling only to upgrade to 386. Must find kind and loving home. 213-645-4545. (4)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Blk man w/ ocean vu vacation timeshare condo for sale. Must sell quickly. Keith at 213-305-7032. (TF)

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Non-sexual massage by hot BiWM, 195 lbs., 5'10" body-builder, big thighs, bubble butt. Certified, with table. \$40/hour. 213-204-6384. (7)

Very attractive body builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

Hands: Rick: An extraordinary guy to meet. Chippendale masseur and physical trainer. Reach for the best and enjoy it. 818-506-6821. (Male and female.) (E)

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Commitment and values. Blk/M, 38, seeks an affectionate and stable Grk/A man 40-55 who likes nature, homelife

and 1-to-1. Any race. Mel 213-656-0258, ext.22. (5)

GWM, 37, 5'9", 150 lbs., handsome, professional seeks stable, sensitive partner. You: 35-49, GBM or GLM, top, professional, loving, HIV status unimportant if healthy, no smoker/drugs/drink. Send photo, hone, letter to: Box 5726, Glendale, CA 91221. (4)

I want black top. GWM, 5'8", 160, seeks well-hung, dominant, black man. In shape only. Bob 213-461-7261. (4)

Butch GWM, 51, seeks GR/A black SFV buddy. 818-766-6033. (6)

European, bi, trim, safe, seeks thick or uncut-endowed. Box 2733, Los Angeles, CA 90078. (6)

Hot, muscular white dude with a pussy-ass wants beer-can thick dicks. Young, black total top, hung at least 9" long and 6" around. Call 213-656-5371. (5)

Blond muscle jock, blue green eyes, 5'11-1/2", 185 lbs., 17-inch arms, looking for super hung black man. Are there any black horses, or is what they say really a myth? Come on dudes, put up or shut up. Chuck, Box 69771, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (4)

GBM, age 28, 5'6", 120 lbs. seeks true love. Any race: macho Call 213-204-5329. (4)

Attractive, sincere French guy, 29, 5'11", 175, muscular, uncut, seeks tall, massive, hunky, black bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for friendship. Box 456, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90046 (4)

Blond bottom, 6'4", 200, 45; wants thin 18-28. 213-281-6138. (6)

Black, black and pretty brown males: A sincere GBM, age 47 (looks 35), 5'7", 219, is looking for a friend into clean living. I like solid-built, masculine, black males, one-on-one, non-effeminate, intelligent and caring. D.P., Box 84174, Los Angeles, CA 90073. (E)

18 yr. butch GWM seeks young, muscular, masculine BM. Steven, 15167 Magnolia Blvd., Suite D, Sherman Oaks, 91403. Enclose a picture please. (Will be returned.) (E)

Attractive GBM, 28, very lonely, seeks masculine GM, 30-45 years for dating relationship must be warm, sincere, able to travel. Photo a plus. Brent Harris, 2800 Broadway #3, Box 118, Sacramento, CA 95817. (TF)

Athletic black male, 5'10", solid build, seeks other black men who are athletic, masculine, in good physical shape and mature in spirit. Must be into safe sex only. Call and leave message. 213-750-6361. (TF)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6:00 p.m. (4)

TLC for gentle BM. Lonely? Willing to meet friend/brother of another color? Tall, slim Euro-American, 43, olive complexion, HIV negative, seeks slim, average-built BM under 45 for romance, safe and sane good times, and possible relationship. My interests include foreign travel, piano, photography, classical, gospel music, the arts. Looks



## HOW TO PLACE A FREE PERSONAL CLASSIFIED AD

Anyone may place a personal ad of 10 words or less free. Over 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word. A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Free ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Simply fill out the space below. Be sure to sign the authorization form. Ads not accepted over the telephone. The rate for commercial enterprises is 25 cents per word. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads in which by its content advertises or solicits sexual acts which are currently considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1. If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach a previous ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is strictly confidential and will not appear in your ad.

### Please complete and sign the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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### Figure cost of ad:

|                                                                  |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| First 10 words (free to everyone, except commercial enterprises) | \$ _____ |
| Additional words _____ at                                        | \$ _____ |
| at 25 cents per word                                             | \$ _____ |
| Cost to run ad one month                                         | \$ _____ |
| Number of insertions                                             | \$ _____ |
| Total cost of ads                                                | \$ _____ |
| Telephone verification at \$1 (if required)                      | \$ _____ |
| Total enclosed                                                   | \$ _____ |

Return this form to:  
BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912

not important, sincerity is. No drugs. If interested, write 11020 Ventura Blvd. #118, Studio City, CA 91604. (4)

I love black men. Let's start with a letter. Me: Latin man, 28, 5'6", 130 lbs., 28" waist, smooth body. You: black, masculine, big, any age. Picture please. (Will return.) Write to: Carlos Alonso, 1770 N. Highland Ave. #644, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (4)

Blond hunk seeks young thin top. Box 75441, LA 90075. (6)

WM, 38, seeks BM 22-42 for one-to-one. R.F., Box 1247, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. (E)

Attractive GWM, twenty-something, seeks masculine GBM, twenty or thirty-something, for loving relationship. We are healthy, caring, intelligent, fun, safe. Call Rick, 213-668-0233. (E)

White boy, 29, 6', 180, seeks large, muscular, dominant Black Master to teach my bottom Black Discipline. Safe sex is a must. Box 70691, Pasadena, CA 91107. (4)

Puerto Rican, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs., seeking daytime masculine black-Latins hung fat to please. Willie 213-657-2539. (6)

GWM, dominant dad, handsome, 60, top seeks creative sucker under 45, any race. Hairy, a plus. No booze/drugs. Photo/phone. Box 155, 8721 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (4)

Attractive GBM interested in meeting GBM in same age group for quiet days and nights to sit around and enjoy each other's company. Hobbies include music and sports. Please send photo if interested. Photo will be returned. Write to Gene, Box 71192, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (TF)

Seduce Me: Husky Scandinavian, blue-eyed blond, brd/must; 40, 6', 210#, pasvly domnt, cigarette smoker. Seek relationship w/stable G/A, F/A/P, 27-37 man w/dark gdlks, gdbld. Fun, good (safe) sex. Future. Photo & phone: DK, Box 42294, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (E)

Good looking black Sagittarius 5'10", 145 lbs., looking for a good looking masculine Leo or Aries, 34 to 40 years young, 5'10" up. Let's share life together. Coty 213-755-8848. (3)

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Black man, masculine, interested in meeting intelligent and comical other black males for conversation and good times. Chuck 213-382-6943. (TF)

24-year-old, 5'7", small athletic build, seeks relationship with caring, intelligent, non-effeminate man. Write E. Christo, Box 71123, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (TF)

Handsome BM, 27, seeks masculine insatiable tops. 213-660-3862. (4)

Hot, attractive, 39-year-old male, outgoing and intelligent, seeks masculine, mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Call C.B., 714-682-4685, Riverside, California. (TF)

Very good looking black gay male seeking good looking male for honest intimate relationship. Please send photo and letter to: Mr. E. Anderson, 7727 Lankershim Blvd. #253, N. Hollywood, Calif. 91605. Will return photo. (TF)

Black, masculine, athletic, educated male, 5'11", 185 lbs., 38 seeks masculine, dominating mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Morning calls or leave message. Jay Jay 714-786-3258. Or write 3800 Parkview Lane #28B, Irvine, CA 92715. (TF)

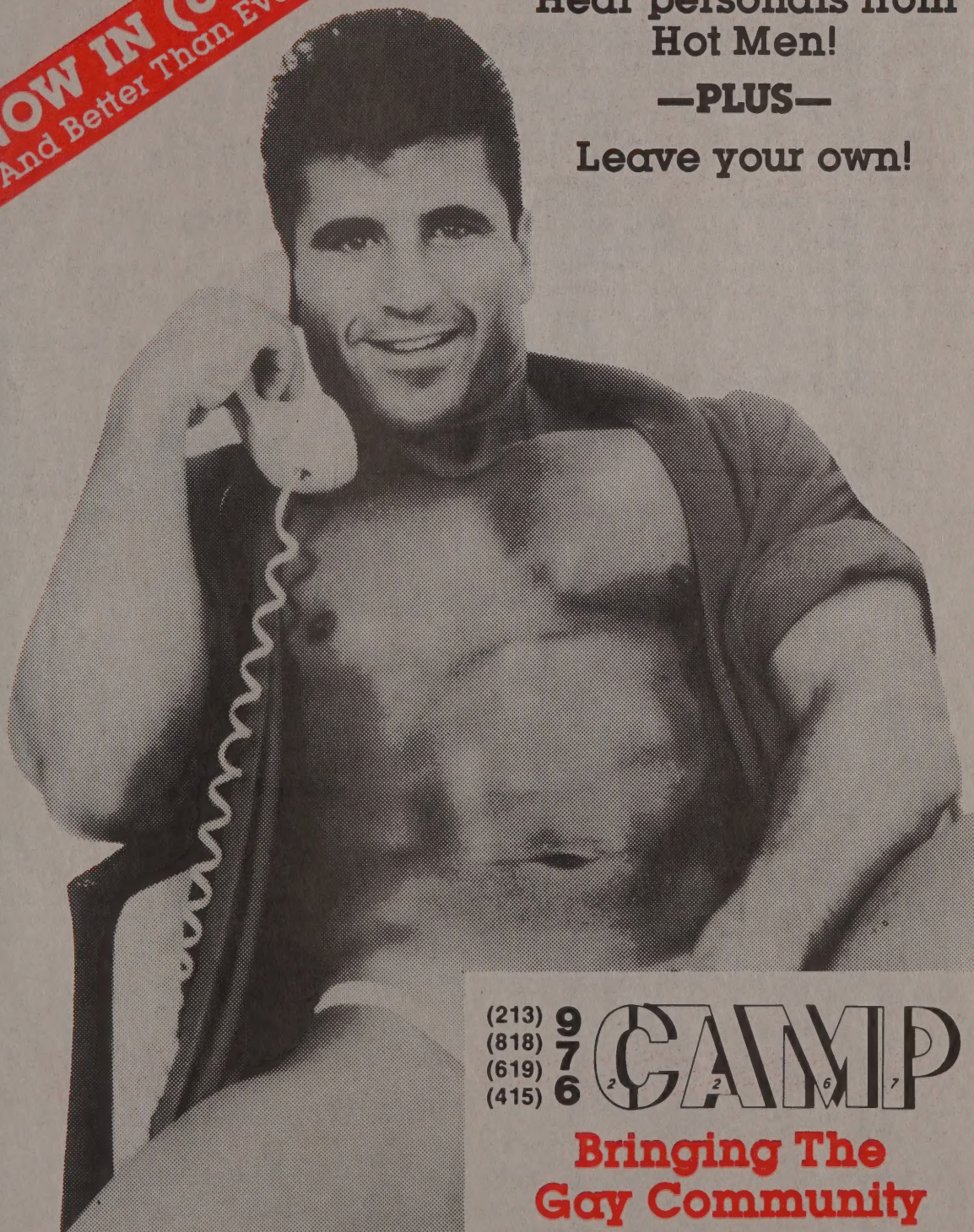


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# BLK

Number 3, February 1989









# The Newsmagazine

Back in 1988, we noticed that although the black lesbian and gay community had a number of fine publications, there was no newsmagazine that reported the life and news of the community on a monthly basis, nationwide. Out of that need, BLK was born.

It is issued free and supported solely by subscriptions and advertising with a little help from T-shirts and key chains. In publication since December 1988, BLK™ is now the most widely-read black lesbian and gay publication in the world. And with a circulation of 37,000, BLK is America's third or fourth largest lesbian and gay newsmagazine of any color.

Regular features include a provocative media watch column, an irreverent personalities column and a collection of unconventional cartoons. BLK covers the entire black lesbian and gay community in all its wondrous diversity. Those on the left. Those on the right. Those in the right. Those in the wrong. BLK covers the washed and the unwashed. Tops and bottoms. We won't tell you what to think, but we will tell you what people are thinking.

BLK. Where the news is colored on purpose.™



# The Lowdown

With no endowment, no grant money, no rich aunts, no multinational parent companies to look to for support, BLK depends largely on you. We need you in three ways: for news, for distribution and for advertising.

**NEWS.** Tell us what is happening in your organization and in your city. Write for us. Photograph for us. Send us flyers and clippings. Call us. Be our eyes and ears in your area.

**DISTRIBUTION.** If you're a little bit more committed, we look to you for distribution. In some cities, we ship several boxes of BLK to one committed individual who distributes them among the local bars and organizations. In some cities, a local organization takes the task on as a group project. Where we don't have a distributor, we must ship to each distribution point directly from the West Coast. Anyone care to see the postage bill?

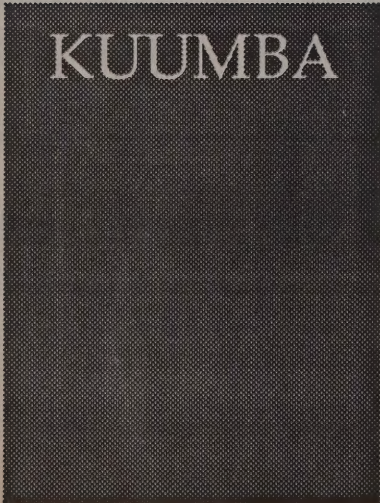
**ADVERTISING.** For the super-committed—those folks who not only want to insure that BLK stays around, but expands and grows—we look to you to help us secure advertisers. (If *you'd* like to advertise, call us. We're ready to talk *anytime*.) Remember, BLK is distributed free. It's advertising revenue that pays the printer, the phone company, etc.



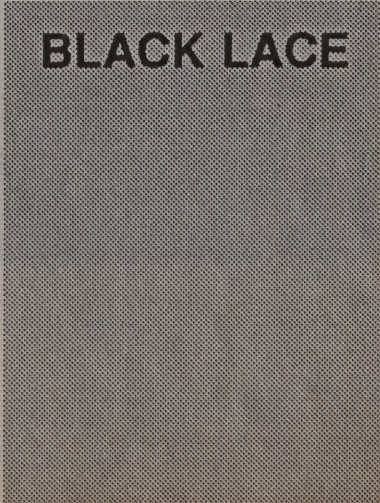
## The Others

There's a lot of talent in the black lesbian and gay community. So much that we couldn't accommodate it all within the newsmagazine format of BLK. So we decided to create two small quarterlies, each focusing on an unmet need within the community.

*Black Lace* is an erotic journal edited by Alycee J. Lane for black lesbians. *Kuumba* is a poetry journal edited by Ayofemi Stowe Folayan and Mark Haile for both black lesbians and gay men. Both made their debuts in the spring of 1991.



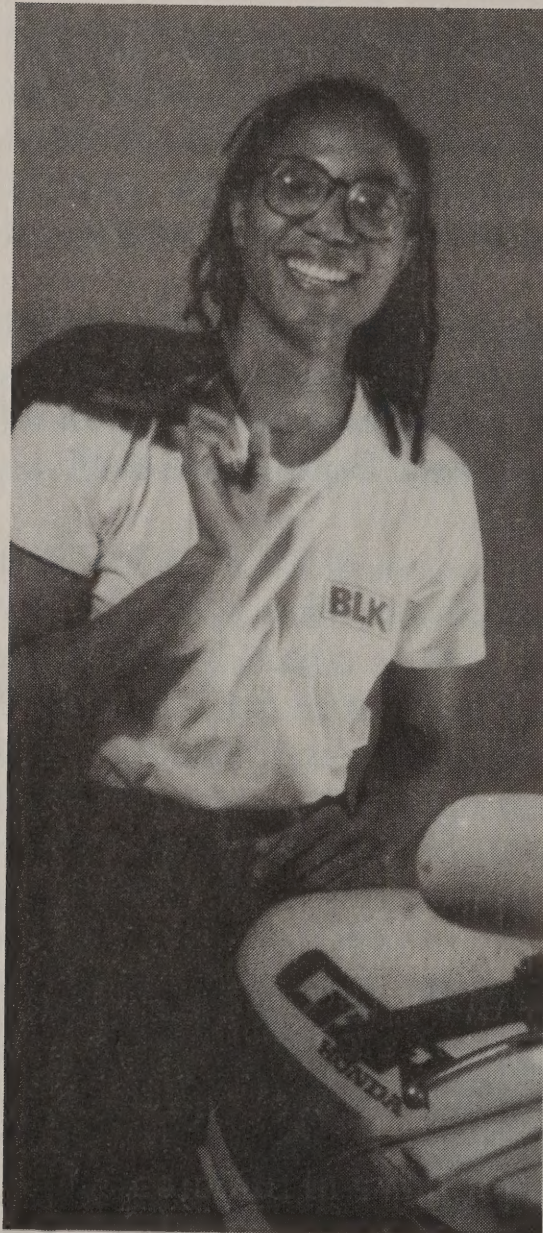
KUUMBA



BLACK LACE



# The Store



First there was the T-shirt. Then, because so many of you liked the idea of helping to support BLK both by being visible with our logo and by giving us a few bucks for the privilege of doing it, we decided to expand the items available.

These items are now collected in a catalog known as the BLK Mail and Femail™ Store, and include *two* T-shirts, a sweat shirt, a button, a key tag in two finishes, a satin jacket and a baseball cap. A fine art print and note cards are on the way. Each bears the BLK logo.

Each provides a way for you to help from \$1 to \$125.



# The Contact Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone and best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

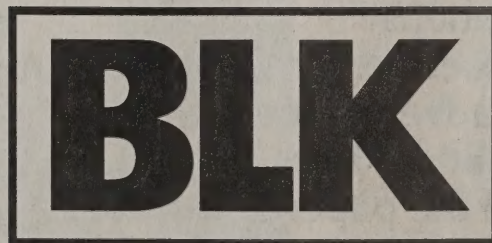
Work phone and best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to:

- ☐ Subscribe to BLK (\$18 year, \$30 two years)
- ☐ Get a BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog
- ☐ Write news articles
- ☐ Write feature articles
- ☐ Take photographs
- ☐ Be a model
- ☐ Do illustrations
- ☐ Be a contact person for news in my area
- ☐ Place an advertisement
- ☐ Help find advertisers
- ☐ Distribute the paper in my area
- ☐ Find out more about *Black Lace*
- ☐ Find out more about *Kuumba*
- ☐ Help locally because I live in L.A.
- ☐ Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Blk Publishing Company  
Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912  
213-410-0808, 213-410-9250 fax





# BLK

Number 5, April 1989



# BEING ALIVE

PEOPLE WITH AIDS ACTION COALITION

is an organization OF and FOR people with AIDS, people with ARC, and people who are HIV positive.

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- ☐ **VITAL INFORMATION**  
The latest on treatments, protocols, monitoring, and intervention strategies.
- ☐ **SPEAKERS BUREAU**  
Providing a powerful voice from the experts - people living with AIDS.
- ☐ **SOCIAL EVENTS**  
Ending the isolation and creating a community of support.
- ☐ **NEWSLETTER AND MONTHLY MEETINGS**  
Bringing the community together, keeping the community informed.

**WE INVITE YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT.**

*Together, we are making a difference.*

To Join or Volunteer, contact us at: 4222 Santa Monica Blvd. #105 Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213.667.3262 Office hours: Mon-Fri NOON-7 PM Sat NOON-4 PM



# Blk Board

To have your event put on the Blk Board, contact Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. Deadline for the May issue is April 24, 1989. The Blk Board is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are Blk Listed.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

People of Color Mobilizing Against AIDS is sponsoring a march and rally on the occasion of the National Black Mayor's Conference in Oakland, California. 11 a.m. Assemble at Lake Merritt BART station; 12 noon March begins; 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rally begins at City Hall.

Second Black Lesbian and Gay Conference to be held in Birmingham, England April 1-2. For more information, write 25 Garfield St., Leicester LE4 5GF, England.

Softball Tryouts begin for Unity Fellowship Softball Team. Jim Gilliam Park, 400 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, California. 10 a.m. Tryouts run through end of April. Call Thea Wilson for more information. 213-935-4105.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1989

Catch One's 17th Anniversary Celebration continues with a fashion show by Devo and a performance by Dr. Love, a new group headed by an ex-member of the Delfonics.

Maxine Waters will speak at Unity Fellowship Church as party of the group's 4th Anniversary Celebration. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 11:30 a.m.

Chapter Playshop and Facilitator Training Sessions sponsored by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention. Held in Detroit, Michigan through April 2-4. Call Reggie Williams for more information 415-673-8133, or write the Task Force at 1101 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1989

Softball Tryouts begin for Unity Fellowship Softball Team. Queen Anne Park, 1240 West Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 7 p.m. Tryouts run through end of April. Call Thea Wilson for more information. 213-935-4105.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

Eighth Annual Installation Banquet sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. 7:30 p.m. No-host bar. Awards. DJ dancing. \$30. Call Rene Seidel for more information. 213-483-1108.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1989

Rev. Steve Peters, a longtime PWA survivor, will speak at Unity Fellowship Church as part of their 4th Anniversary Celebration. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 11:30 a.m.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

"Hot, Healthy and Horny" safer sex workshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call Phill Wilson for more information. 213-667-2549.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1989

Renee McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays will be one of the keynote speakers at the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men to be held in Dallas, Texas April 13-16, 1989. Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219. 214-471-6040.

Chapter Playshop sponsored by the National Task Force on

AIDS Prevention. Held in Dallas through April 13-16. Call Reggie Williams for more information 415-673-8133, or write the Task Force at 1101 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1989

Birthday Party for South Bay Court Emperor Dane at Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, California. 8 p.m. \$3 donation. Proceed to the South Bay Court. For more information contact Dane. 213-671-7323.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1989

"Hot, Healthy and Horny" safer sex workshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call Phill Wilson for more information. 213-667-2549.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1989

Black and White Men Together/Detroit Anniversary and Midwest Region Network Meeting. Workshops, board meeting, banquet and brunch. Field trip to a Canadian bar. 313-965-4646.

## SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1989

Jewel Williams, owner of the Catch One, is celebrating her 50th Birthday with a dinner at Catch One. 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 3 p.m. Reservations required. 213-737-1159.

## FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

Black and White Men Together/Youngstown Sixth Anniversary Weekend called "Getting to Know Ourselves." Workshops, reception, picnic, brunch, banquet, party, film and sports. Free housing. May 19-21. For more information, call Don at 216-782-3483 or Bob at 216-747-3624.

## SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1989

Planning Meeting for a Black Lesbian Conference called by an ad hoc committee. Open to all black women. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 2:30 p.m. Call Gini for more information. 213-204-3894.



"No you can't leave. I'm a strong mother making up for your weak father. Together, we're teaching you to be a gay snob."



# Blk Mail

Dear Editor:

Even though the few words ["Read My Lips," BLK, March 1989] were intended to be written in jest, those few words were a poor choice. Ms. Metoyer is a single woman, we are friends and at no time were there thoughts of bloodshed.

All of us that know one another know this. However, there are many more people that read your magazine. Could you in some way assure those many other readers that indeed our conference was successful and that "Read My Lips" is pure satire.

Edwina Conley  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Editor:

What an excellent interview! The Randy Cochran [BLK, March 1989] was super. Honest, sensitive and caring are the best way to describe it.

How nice to get a true story from such a good model and star. Usually those guys hide things and hedge, but not Randy. That's great! Hats off to him.

Ralph F. Navarro  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Editor:

An organization calling themselves the Black Lesbians and Gay for Health and Justice circulated a rambling letter to some of the participants at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference, claiming exclusion and elitism.

The letter claimed that people were turned away from conference events for lack of funds, yet an examination of registration records reveal over five dozen men and women received full or partial scholarships to be able to participate, including many people with AIDS.

More than 100 volunteers, from students to senior citizens, were on hand to assist with the events at the Hilton, Catch One, and the Minority AIDS Project...

A search through the listings provided by the Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, Pacific Bell Information, the Minority AIDS Project, and the various gay hotlines services in Southern California failed to provide any information on BLGHJ. Likewise the organization did not appear anywhere among the 10,000 names on mailing lists compiled from every major black lesbian and gay organization in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain...

Planning meetings for the conference were open to the public all year round, advertised in both the gay and black media, including radio and street banners...The continued contributions of thousands of volunteer hours throughout the year would erase any perception of the conference as a one-man "Phill Wilson Show."

It is sad that a mark of the success of the conference is how low detractors must stoop in order to attack it, while those who complain, as always, are those who are so unwilling to get involved to see their own agendas advanced.

Mark Haile  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Editor:

Contributing writers for BLK seemed to have been

quite occupied with me in the last edition [BLK, March 1989] and not occupied with the real issues that were stated in the letter circulated by members of BLGHJ or what really happened the conference and what is really happening throughout our community when it comes to the issues of black people, classism and the lack of grass-roots engaging or support coming from our so-called "leaders"...

We never "cornered" or told Natalie that we were too poor to get into the [National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership] conference. We simply presented to her with the letter that was circulated. It was totally her idea to "read" the classist and opportunistic divas that were putting on the event... She was "through, baby" when she saw with her own eyes that there were people outside who couldn't afford to get into the luncheon... Natalie is a "down" sister and her response...was strictly her own.

Natalie did offer to pay Rolanda and I to get into the conference luncheon. We told her that we were not willing to pay for something we didn't support. She felt that what we had to say needed to be heard and she decided that she would escort us into the luncheon herself since we weren't willing to pay for it. In response to Preston Guider's comments that Rolanda and I are good fund-raisers: our "tool" did work! He forgot to mention that in response to the issues we raised, Natalie donated \$1000 to the National Minority AIDS Council...

Some of us were there at the hotel during the round table. There was another meeting going on at the same time to build a black AIDS conference... This building committee seemed to be too busy building a real black folks conference to remember the roundtable.

I find it interesting that the issues stated in the letter were not addressed in BLK, only a selective few that were complied and responded to by organizers of the conference... Like why did Teresa Brown not get any recognition for her dedicated work with PWAs of color at Dignity House? Why was there no outreach campaign done in the local bars and clubs of the black lesbian and gay community to get people to that conference? Why were women's issues as well as the issues of the working class and poor people not addressed? I could go on and on.

It's your choice to deal with the real issues or not. I understand how we become divided. We live under a constant siege of racism, homophobia, divide and conquer and sexism. Many of us don't have the luxury of untainted thought or decision. Our very existence in this country is in response to the brutality of our people. Which can become crazy making and confuse us even when we have good intentions...

Even though I totally support and participated in the creation of the letter disseminated by BLGHJ, I never passed out one letter. Yet my name appears throughout BLK as the one who circulated the letter... I was walking around the conference getting signatures for the AIDS Bill of Rights petition. That was my job. I handed out no letters.

Another misnomer was the implication that Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice was a newly formed organization as if we were instantly formed only to disrupt the conference. Honey, please! The organization was founded in May of 1988...

My last comment will be in response to the alleged



work exchange program "allowing people to volunteer their time in lieu of paying the registration fee" and the "conference to turn away no one." First of all how is anyone supposed to benefit from something that they have no idea about. This was not in any of the literature I saw and until the last minute, and I saw nothing on the conference at all at the local black lesbian and gay clubs here in Los Angeles.

Cleo Manago  
Organizer, BLGHJ  
Los Angeles, California

**Blk Mail** should be addressed to **BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.** Letters to the Editor should include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. Names will be withheld on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.

# BLK

Number 5, April 1989

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Cartoons courtesy Ebony Magazine.  
New captions by BLK.

# NGRA

National  
Gay  
Rights  
Advocates

## DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

National Gay Rights Advocates seeks  
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# Oh, Lorde!

## *Black student group hosts noted black lesbian feminist at UCLA*

By Chi Hughes

In an unprecedented event in the annals of UCLA, the Center for Afro-American Studies hosted a reading by Audre Lorde, noted black lesbian feminist poet. Lorde, author of over a dozen books, shared five poems from numerous works and fielded questions from the group of approximately 40 women, stuffed into a classroom in Haines Hall.

"So I cannot recall the words of my first poem. But I remember a promise I made my pen. Never to leave it lying in somebody else's blood." These reflective lines closed the first poem of the reading.

Speaking from the particulars of who she is: black woman, lesbian, feminist, mother of two children, daughter of Grenadian immigrants, educator, cancer survivor and activist, Lorde interspersed (between poems) compelling commentary on issues ranging from the empowerment of African American women, to the inclusion of black males in the black feminist movement, to the rising tide of domestic violence in St. Croix, where she currently lives.

Much of Lorde's literary work seeks to define, identify,

clarify and even expand the issues specifically confronting black women of the Diaspora. Yet in person she goes beyond the literary, to the literal. "I am a black lesbian, feminist, warrior, poet, mother doing my work. And the most important and urgent of my work is being here asking each one of you 'how are you doing yours.'"

"My black sisters, wherever you find yourselves, it is urgent that you begin to use yourselves. Terrible things are being done in our name. We are part of both the national community of women of African descent, we are part of the Diaspora and the power that we have that is not being used, is being used against us," cautioned Lorde.

She is equally as vocal and vigilant in the fight for the continual inclusion and acknowledgement of the many contributions black lesbians and gay men have made to society and more specifically the black community. In "Learning from the 60s," she writes, "The move to render the presence of lesbians and gay men invisible in the intricate fabric of black existence and survival is a move which contributes to the fragmentation and weakness in the black community."

The perfect merging of these two identities (black/lesbian) in her biomythography, *Zami: A New Spelling Of My Name*. Here Lorde pays homage to the women who have helped shape her life and also provides a vivid firsthand account of her development through Harlem, Catholic school, West Indian parents, an abortion, Stamford, lesbian etiquette in the 50s, becoming a poet, Mexico and Carriacou. In the epilogue to *Zami* Lorde concludes, "Their names, selves, faces feed me like corn before labor. I live each of them as a piece of me, and I choose these words with the same grave concern with which I choose to push speech into poetry, the mattering core, the forward visions of all our lives."

"Once home was a long way off, a place I had never been to but knew out of my mother's mouth. I only discovered its latitudes when Carriacou was no longer my home."

"There it is said that the desire to lie with other women is a drive from the mother's blood."

The crux of Lorde's presentation on March 17 was the importance of women moving towards action resulting in empowerment and coalition building. Acknowledging the presumed differences of the women seated before her Lorde offered, "What do you have in common besides the power that maybe all of you are not using? We don't have to become each other in order to work together."

With a career of activism spanning over two decades, several of Lorde's books include speeches and essays delivered during this period. Her essay "Apartheid USA" briefly chronicles the atrocities leading to apartheid in South Africa, while drawing striking parallels to the treatment of blacks in America. Currently Lorde works



Audre Lorde



closely with SISA—Sisters in Support of Sisters in South Africa.

"I work with a group, which is one of the ways I try to put into practice the things I say, I believe," says Lorde (one of six founding mothers of SISA). The purpose of SISA is twofold: "continuing education on what is happening in South Africa and to share resources of the women of North America with our sisters in Soweto. We do fundraising. The money goes directly to Ellen Kuzwayo, the South African woman writer." The funds are then channeled to two groups in Soweto that hold literacy programs, start self-help groups and sewing groups.

Responding to a question about the mass media's recent treatment of the allegations surrounding Winnie Mandela, Lorde resoundingly replied, "The first thing that we need to do is suspect that kind of coverage. Something is going on and it's not about news." As an alternative she recommended seeking views from "authentic information," such as the *African National Congress News Briefings*.

"We are not in the position to decide what must occur in South Africa beyond the fact that black South Africa will be free and where do we intend to be, on what side?" Lorde urged people to "look at Winnie Mandela in terms of who she is and what she has lived through for the last 26 years."

At the age of fifty (in 1984) Audre Lorde was diagnosed with breast cancer. She has been very vocal about cancer and its treatment, and as with many of her other issues, has made it the subject of several works: *The Cancer Journals* and "A Burst of Light." Concerns about her health surfaced at the reading.

To the comfort of many she stated, "I am doing very well. You see me here doing my work. My work keeps me moving through my life and I am very pleased to be here to do it. I go to Germany in July for more treatment and follow a discipline." The discipline includes reducing stress on a cellular level and spending more time in St. Croix where she and a friend raise bees and are starting

a honey business.

The afternoon ended with a reception for Lorde including around 15 black women from the earlier reading. While most were reluctant to see the afternoon come to a close, Lorde in an empowering voice affirmed, "There is nothing mysterious about me. The lessons of survival we all carry inside us. There is a great deal of power in this room. I feel it right now. I am pleased to be a part of it. I hope we meet in the use of it."

By the end of the reception, women were speaking eagerly about forming a support group for black lesbians at UCLA. Lists were circulated for interested parties to sign-up. In the midst of all the excitement Lorde sat patiently, basking in the power generated through her work.

#### WORKS BY AUDRE LORDE

The First Cities  
Cables to Rage  
From A Land Where Other People Live  
New York Head Shop And Museum  
Coal  
Between Ourselves  
The Black Unicorn  
The Cancer Journals  
Zami: A New Spelling Of My Name  
Chosen Poems: Old And New  
Sister Outsider  
Our Dead Behind Us

#### RESOURCE INFORMATION

For more information about Sisterhood in Support of Sisters in South Africa, write: SISA, Box 24966 GBS, Christiansted, St. Croix 00824, U.S. Virgin Islands.

To subscribe to the African National Congress News Briefings, write: ANC, 801 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017.



"But, officer, Leonard and I are on our honeymoon."



# The King and the Jester

*Tom Bradley and Nate Holden vie for City Hall  
in Los Angeles*

**By L. Lloyd Jordan**

In 1987 Nate Holden ran for the 10th Los Angeles Councilmanic district, Tom Bradley's seat before he became L.A.'s mayor in 1973. Bradley's successor, David Cunningham, had quit in midterm. Few believed that Holden could win the seat without Bradley's support. But Bradley was actively campaigning for another candidate. Holden won.

In 1988 Nate Holden is again trying to win an office occupied by its first black incumbent while Bradley actively campaigns for someone else—himself. Once again, few believe Holden can win. But Holden always runs as a dark horse, winning in the stretch when the overconfident frontrunner expects to cruise through the last lap.

No one is sure if Holden is running for mayor because he believes he can win, or to spite Tom Bradley. Holden says that he is doing it because someone ought to, and no one else has the nerve. He says he wants to raise the issues that only really get addressed in a contested election. Issues such as L.A.'s deteriorating quality of life, proliferating violent crime, traffic congestion, festering poverty among blacks and immigrants, misplaced development and lack of affordable housing.

The Mayor's critics say, and Bradley does not deny, that he is relentlessly popular, credited by the people with much of the good and blamed for little of the bad in the City. Bradley insists (usually through his nimble-tongued deputy mayor, Mike Gage) that he has launched visible, if not very effective sorties against these leviathan problems. Holden may raise, but polls say voters won't blame Bradley for the intractable issues of urban living.

But neither candidate is raising or taking responsi-

bility for issues of most concern to lesbians and gays of color. Councilman Mike Woo's Task Force on Family Diversity recommended nearly a year ago that the City legally recognize "domestic partnerships"—so-called "gay marriages"—for unmarried cohabiting couples who "share the common necessities of life." So far, the Mayor has voiced general support of, but taken no action to implement, the report's recommendations, other than to solicit feedback from City agencies. West Hollywood already allows City registration of domestic partnerships. Bradley is expected to endorse a more modest plan permitting sick and bereavement leave for domestic partners of civil servants.

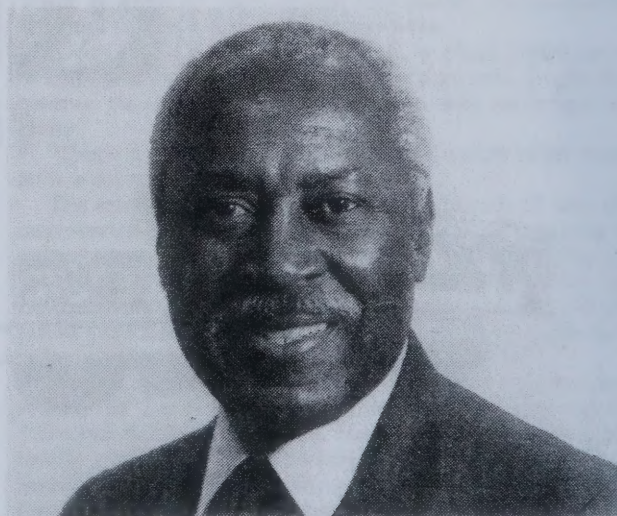
The Mayor has publicly honored but never taken a vigorous stand in support of the heroic work of Fairfax High teacher Virginia Uribe, whose Project 10 counseling program for lesbian and gay youth has been targeted for elimination by Traditional Family advocates. The report also called for establishment of a task force on Gay and Lesbian Family Violence, which Bradley has not yet directed the city attorney to set up.

On the other hand, over the years Bradley has been consistently supportive of the rights of lesbians, gays and HIV-positives to live free from discrimination. These rights have been secured by city law during his term in office. Although Bradley seldom attends lesbian and gay events except those of white gay fundraisers and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, he delivered a rousing speech at the first Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference in 1988.

Mike Gage actively participated in meetings with lesbian and gay leaders and police and fire officials to



*Tom Bradley*



*Nate Holden*



reduce police harassment of Anglo gay bars in Silverlake last year, but blacks were invited into this process only as negotiations were concluded. Perhaps most significantly, none of the Mayor's few appointments of open lesbians and gays to city commissions or to his own staff have gone to African Americans or, indeed, to any minorities. Black gays have not had the Mayor's ear in the sense of being consulted about lesbian and gay issues. Anglo gays, especially the so-called "north of Franklin" set whose members frequently sit on gay fundraising boards, have enjoyed mayoral access, but have frequently been out of touch or at odds with black gay activists. If, however, this is indicative of Bradley's negligence, it has been compounded by that of black gay activists who have failed to cultivate a reciprocally beneficial relationship with Bradley.

In the war on AIDS, Bradley has been a dutiful foot soldier rather than an inspired general. Yet there is a full-time deputy city attorney assigned to handle AIDS discrimination cases, and a city AIDS co-ordinator who is currently being recruited who will answer directly to Gage. What is needed, however, is more ingenuity in ferreting out funding for PWA care, more assertive advocacy at the county, state and federal levels, and stronger affirmation of the City's responsibility to care for and respect those who are HIV infected.

Nate Holden, perennial candidate, has a lengthy political history but a spotty career. In the last two decades, he has run for office eight times, winning only twice. First elected to the State Senate in 1974, he promptly ran for Congress, forfeiting his senate seat after a single term and losing the congressional seat to Julian Dixon. Most of the time since then he has been a deputy for County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, an Anglo politician much-respected in the black community.

If Bradley is sometimes described by friends and foes alike as a lackluster liberal, Holden is often seen as a pandering populist. He has a knack for figuring out what people most dislike in his opponents, fanning their anger, then marketing himself as exactly the opposite. Thus, to African Americans who believe that Bradley is intimidated by his white supporters and neglectful of black needs, Holden portrays himself as the savior of South Central. To the homeless and over-mortgaged he promises affordable housing and has successfully challenged Bradley's credibility on the issue. To Anglos and blacks he rails against foreign competition for markets, real estate and jobs. If Bradley is regarded as paralyzed by caution, Holden is known to shoot from the hip—or the lip, and sometimes makes statements or recommendations which seem poorly thought out.

He obtained the endorsement of the Black Gay Men's Coalition (BGMC) for Human Rights in his 1987 councilmanic campaign, partially because he addressed the group in person, while his opponent sent the black gay, but white-looking and little-known Bevan Dufty. Since then, Ron Grayson, former chair of BGMC, who actively campaigned for Holden's election, and others have expressed dismay at Holden's lack of responsiveness to black gay concerns. Holden was absent last October when City Council overwhelmingly passed the Family Diversity Task Force resolution establishing the City's domestic partnership policy for city employees.

When a motion was sponsored in Council by gay activists to oppose last year's Proposition 96, Holden supported a counter-motion to *endorse* the measure on the November ballot. To some black gays, Prop 96 was more invidious than the more infamous Prop 102, because it authorized police officers to require HIV testing of arrested (but not yet convicted) persons. Since blacks are

stopped on the streets far more frequently than whites, and since the white gay community chose to focus their money and energy on defeating Prop 102 and virtually ignored Prop 96, black gay activists were appalled when none of the three black City Councilmen opposed the initiative. (It was later approved by California voters.) Moreover, Holden is reputed to have told a number of persons that he supported Prop 102, although he issued no formal endorsement of the measure.

Recently, Holden proposed that the dilapidated and virtually abandoned Queen of Angels Hospital be converted by the City into an AIDS facility. This idea was opposed by most AIDS activists because the hospital would be expensive to renovate and operate, and runs counter to the growing belief that PWA hospices should be small and dispersed among local communities. Councilwoman Gloria Molina openly criticized Holden for having held up City funding for a group home for gay and lesbian youths, most of whom are black [BLK, February 1989]. Although Holden subsequently authorized the funding, pleas from gay activists and from several politicians had previously failed to dissuade Holden from his opposition, based, he claimed, on his belief that the facility's neighbors would resent the home.

Holden is generally praised for his forthright and innovative advocacy on behalf of African Americans. But he does not have a reputation for extending this concern to the needs of other discriminated against minorities, particularly if he perceives them or their issues as inimicable to the interests of blacks.

From the African American perspective, Holden's candidacy may be salutary because it gives dissatisfied blacks an opportunity to send a message to their mayor without repudiating black leadership. It may put needed pressure on Bradley to increase accessibility and responsiveness to African American concerns in his next term. But it has served a different purpose for Bradley's non-black enemies. This race has witnessed the ironic phenomenon of grassroots black activist Holden garnering the endorsements of conservative ex-Mayor Sam Yorty and of the Policemen's League.

The local Anglo press, led by the *Los Angeles Times* and, especially, the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, have escalated Holden's challenge to Bradley into a prize fight. These media have given Holden far more positive press and Bradley far more negative press than Holden's campaign could ever have afforded to purchase. They are using Holden's candidacy to subject Bradley's person and record as mayor to a glaring, microscopic scrutiny which many blacks find offensive.

Unlike black mayors in other major cities, Bradley has not been the subject of serious scandal, nor the object of accusations of incompetence, nor a lightning rod for racial hostility or polarization. Although Los Angeles has accommodated incredible growth and become one of the world's great cosmopolises during Bradley's tenure, the adverse impacts of these changes have brought down upon him the wrath of Westside environmentalists, Valley suburbanites, xenophobes and, apparently, the major print media. Although none of these disaffected constituencies seriously contemplate Holden as an alternative to Bradley, the dailies seem bent on publicly venting their frustration with the electorate's unwillingness to blame the Mayor for the side effects of prosperity. Were it not for this factor in the April 11 election, not only would Bradley have a cakewalk back into office, as he is, in fact, expected to do, but it would appear to be election by acclamation. For those who do not wish to give Bradley that kind of mandate, Nate Holden may be a useful spoiler. It is a role he doesn't mind playing at all.



# Black/White Photography

*Robert Mapplethorpe, noted for photos of black men,  
dies of AIDS in Boston*

**By Jarvis D. Moore**



*Phillip. Photo by and © Robert Mapplethorpe.*



Avant garde photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, considered among the most prominent artists in his field, died at age 42 on Thursday March 9, of AIDS-related complications in Deaconess Hospital in Boston. He had waged a public battle with AIDS for more than a year, and was involved in AIDS related activism.

Mapplethorpe's photographs gained notoriety because of their eroticism and subject matter. His work included exceptional still life photographs of flowers, phonograph album covers, fashion models, and portraits of celebrities, but explicit scenes of sadomasochistic homosexuality, and people with AIDS were other subjects. Although he was white, one of his specialties was photographs of nude black men. Born in 1946, and raised in Floral Park, New York, he took to Manhattan's 42nd Street in the 1960s and became fascinated with its pornography theatres and bookstores.

In 1962, he enrolled at Pratt Institute, one of New York's top art schools, meandering through the curriculum in eight years. There he met rock musician and poetess Patti Smith, who became his first portrait subject and lover. When the mid-1970s gave rise to the New Wave rock 'n' roll, Mapplethorpe created album covers for Smith and the group, Television. Mapplethorpe credits Smith for emboldening him to let homosexuality in his photographic images emerge.

In the mid-1970s, Mapplethorpe became staff photographer for Andy Warhol's magazine, *Interview*, meeting and photographing many celebrities such as Arnold Schwarzenegger, David Hockney, and Gregory Hines. In 1972, he met wealthy photograph collector Sam Wagstaff, and eventually they became lovers. Wagstaff died of AIDS in 1987, and left his estate of \$7 million to Mapplethorpe. However, Mapplethorpe was diagnosed as having AIDS by that time. He did not stop taking photographs.

Susan Arthur of the Robert Miller Gallery in New York which represented the artist said that Mapplethorpe was about to publish two new books of his work. "His pictures now were about what he was experiencing. That he was fighting dying makes them that much more timely in this age of AIDS," said Arthur.

Both the Whitney Museum in New York, and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia organized separate retrospectives in 1988. The Philadelphia show, *The Perfect Moment*, recently embarked on a five-city American tour. Currently in Chicago, the show travels next to Berkeley, California; then Washington D.C.; Hartford, Connecticut; Cincinnati, Ohio; and ends in Boston, Massachusetts in 1990.

Although he was white, Mapplethorpe's work is of special interest to a significant part of the black gay male community because his numerous, sensitive, and coolly erotic photographs of athletic, intriguing, and physically elegant black men are artistically breathtaking. "My work is about order. I am a perfectionist." Mapplethorpe said about his austere, very unspontaneous work.

Many of Mapplethorpe's photographs of black men are collected in *Black Book*, published in 1986 by St. Martin's Press. His photographs are not mere posings of tired stereotypes of what a typical American white man thinks is interesting about a black man. The photographs go beyond that into a realm of sensitive exploration and delineation. His work is unflinchingly "honest," verging on hyper reality. The range of photographs acknowledges that black men are not all alike. Not everyone is super-endowed as the myth would have us believe, but those that are so endowed are not ashamed of it. Most straight white American males would not have been able to take such photographs because they see black men as symbolic sexual and economic rivals, not as subjects for artistic

exploration. Thus, most white artists have made caricatures of black male subjects. Mapplethorpe's work can be compared in its natural look and investigation to such white painters as Rubens and Winslow Homer; and to documentary photographer Margaret Bourke-White.

Most critics agree that Mapplethorpe broke new ground with his photographs, and made black men legitimate subjects for fine art photographs, and by extension, galleries and museums. Bruce Guenther, chief curator of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, explains why patrons are fascinated with Mapplethorpe's black male nudes: "Polite, middle-class people aren't allowed to look at black men. Mapplethorpe crosses that taboo and allows us to look."

Would Mapplethorpe have been allowed to achieve his fame in the established art world if he had featured his black male nudes throughout his career? Probably Mapplethorpe was only able to do this after he had established his career credibility with his previous work. And, since Mapplethorpe was white, he was able to lift the veil allowing whites to look at beautiful people in ways that the art establishment would not have taken seriously from black photographers. This duplicitous pattern is old news to us, but do not let that preclude you from viewing and enjoying his work. His photographs of muscular, enigmatic, clothed and naked black men are sensual, but not pornographic, and it is hard and subjective to explain why. Most pornography seems concerned only with picturing genitals and an actual sex act. Mapplethorpe went beyond to evoke the erotic via the perfection of his image. Art critic Bruce Chatwin of the *San Francisco Examiner* says, "his eye is like that of a sculptor in search of an ideal."

"Mapplethorpe was a classicist at heart," says art critic Vince Aletti of New York's *Village Voice*, yet he used a modern minimalist sensitivity in his lean, spare, carefully arranged compositions. This seeming contradiction may explain why some people feel uncomfortable about, yet are intrigued by and enjoy his willful, arbitrary, and non-conventional work. These days, the word "classical" may conjure up images of Greek and Roman columns, arches, and/or overdecorated French *foufou*. But the sense of "classical" that applies to Mapplethorpe is timeless and culture transcendent. It involves straight ahead axial symmetry, or dramatic asymmetry, strong awareness of form, and the use of one or two colors. Mapplethorpe chose to work predominantly in the black and white medium which channels a viewer's attention to appreciate formal qualities of texture, such as muscles, hair, sweat, eyes, and shadows. Seldom did he use trick photo effects or novel techniques. Indeed, his photographs could have been made 30 years ago, and will still look good without condescension 30 or more years from now. They are "classic."

*Black Book* has a poignant point. Mapplethorpe lamented in an interview that over half of the men pictured in the book had died from AIDS. Mapplethorpe has now joined them. The book is dedicated to a black man, pictured at the front, and one wonders what was the relationship between Mapplethorpe and this man? Is he now dead, too? Also, *Black Book* has a moving poetic forward written by the noted black playwright, Ntozake Shange (who wrote *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When The Rainbow Is Not Enuf*). Her analysis and praise of Mapplethorpe is penetrating, sympathetic, and forms a perfect prelude for the photographs. Mapplethorpe did not distance himself from what he photographed. Although this comment was specifically about his S & M photographs, he said, "I've done everything I show in my photographs...[they] are like a







diary..." Love and concern for his models is shown, as well as the breeziness of the model who was a one-night-stand. Some of the models look very familiar, like guys just off the street, and one or two of the models have gone on to become porno video stars. Some of the models look like statues. Critic Jeff Zurlinden of Los Angeles's *Frontiers* said of one model, "...he poses as a single beautiful object with bulging, well-defined muscles. He is so perfect yet so distant that the viewer longs to touch his skin to make it real."

Mapplethorpe's intent with his bracing photographs was full of contradictions. He shocked some audiences, yet his photographs neither glamourized nor played down the sexual extent of his work. His intent was never to only just shock, but to make the shocking beautiful. He fitted the most incongruous things into a singular world view, and saw nothing unusual about it. "I just want to be written about as a normal artist," Mapplethorpe once told *American Photographer* magazine. "I never wanted to be a photographer," he said. "It was sort of a mistake really. I only wanted to make a statement and photography ended up being the vehicle."

Mapplethorpe's work was commercially successful. In 1987, his platinum-on-linen prints produced in single editions, sold for \$15,000 each. His photographs have been in numerous exhibits and are part of many museum

collections. However, two shows exclusively focused on his black men: *The Black Male Image* at the Harlem Exhibition Space in 1982, and *Black Males* at the Galleria II Ponte in Rome, also in 1982. His work can also be found in some 20 books.

Peter Schjeldahl, art critic for the New York weekly, *7 Days*, wrote "It's time to say that Robert Mapplethorpe was the greatest pure studio photographer of our time and one of the most important photographers of all time. He has altered the common meanings of his medium. He has redefined the boundaries of public taste."

The American art world has lost a great talent, at the height of his career. The genre of black male photography is richer because of him.

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#### LEONARD SIMON ANALYZES ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE

Photographers were the pioneers of the new homosexual eroticism. Robert Mapplethorpe, known for his hard-edged, sado-masochistic, gay-oriented photography is particularly controversial. With a beguiling naturalness, his photographs show the world in which he was involved. His subject matter was important to him personally ("I've done everything I show in my photographs," he once told an interviewer), and in the world of photography, startlingly new. His was not the objective view of the camera, but the active and subjective mood of the participant.

The profession of the artist has traditionally offered the homosexual and outlet for his sensitivity, a place where, however limited, some expression of his sexuality can be made without fear of ridicule or dismissal—a relatively safe community within which some sort of identity could be established. To establish such an identity, the artist must highlight two significant points particularly relevant

to the visual artists.

The first is how, and to what extent, the artist's own awareness of himself as homosexual has influenced his work. The second is how, given the cultural modes and social attitudes of society, artists have achieved both a self-representation and questioning of their sexuality. Such self-representation both reflects and contributes to a growing awareness of the gay identity in contemporary society.

Expression of love (such as those found in Michelangelo's poetry for other men) were well known, and, if made public, condemned. All art builds upon previous art, whether it is by tearing down or developing it. Today, artists who are homosexual have a wide number of responses. Some want to celebrate their homosexuality, some use it to comment on the world, others use it to subvert existing meanings of images, ideas and notions.

When in the 1970s Mapplethorpe moved into that notorious hang-out of artists, the Chelsea Hotel in New York, he became in-

involved in the life around it. Early photo-montage and collage included images from pornographic gay sex magazines and later incorporated his own images. These show sadomasochistic scenes of unflinching honesty, as well as portraits of friends and studies of flawless flowers.

With great bravura, Mapplethorpe became the great sexual showman; he photographed himself with a whip butt up his ass and his friends pressing another in his mouth. With an almost dispassionate sense of observation, he posed his models in carefully arranged compositions. His particular aesthetic involves crystal clarity which has nothing to do with the snapshot and flash gun technique of commercial pornography. Thus the most extreme S & M scenes involving chains, straps and black leather, men with trussed genitals, bound and gagged, soon take on a "natural" quality which can be objectively studied even if some people find the subject matter overwhelming.

Right from the start the photographs were "honest," seeking neither to glamorize nor play down the physical and sexual extent of the work. Mapplethorpe's work has a shocking quality both for his choice of subject matter and the fact that the photograph is intrinsically more realistic than painting. Pornography, always (and often falsely) disassociated from the "erotic," fascinated Mapplethorpe, who wanted to remove the boredom of commercial pornography and make pictures which while still erotically charged could be artistically beautiful.

Speaking of another photographer, Dorothea Lange said, "...Every image he sees, every photograph he takes, becomes in a sense a self-portrait. The portrait is made more meaningful by intimacy—an intimacy shared not only by the photographer with his subject but by the audience." It's a comment that suits Robert Mapplethorpe perfectly.

Leonard Simon, Ph.D., is an art critic and historian.



# Blk Community News

## Bean Steps Down as Minority AIDS Project Head to Pursue Church Duties; Board Selects Gil Gerald

By Mark Haile and Alan Bell

LOS ANGELES—Rev. Carl Bean surprised the gay community recently by announcing that he would step down as executive director of the Minority AIDS Project. He will maintain his post as pastor of Unity Fellowship Church, however, of which the MAP is an outreach program.

Rev. Bean will be replaced by Trinidad-born Gilberto Gerald who is moving from the East Coast to manage the celebrated community-based AIDS organization.

The rapid growth of Unity Fellowship Church, as well as the expansion of the MAP, both founded by Rev. Bean, prompted the decision, the cleric said. He wants to devote more of his time to the needs of his flourishing congregation.

"The members of my church have been more than kind and understanding about the amount of time I've devoted to AIDS, AIDS ministry and AIDS education in the black and Latino communities," said Rev. Bean. "However, because of the many demands that go with pastoring a flock, there are other needs within my church body that require love and care in addition to those surrounding AIDS."

One of the new black gay activists who has been able to support himself as a full-time professional advocate for black and gay causes, Gerald comes to the MAP with a background both as an activist and as an executive. Mostly recently, he was director of minority affairs for the National AIDS Network in Washington, D.C.

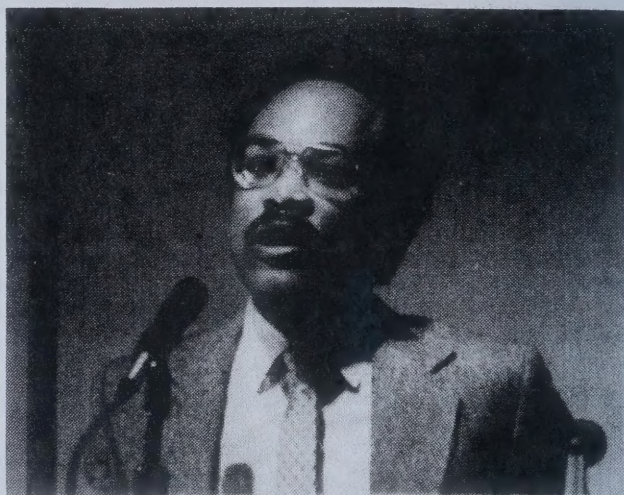
Gerald was the executive director and principal fundraiser of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays from 1983 to 1986. He is a former member of the board of directors of both the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the Gay Rights National Lobby. In 1984, he served as a Jesse Jackson convention delegate and gay liaison to the Jackson campaign. He is an architect by training.

"Gil Gerald is a friend, a brother and a staunch supporter of human rights for everyone," said Rev. Bean. "He sat at the helm of NCBLG, much of the time for no salary, but with a determination that the organization would survive. He, along with myself and others, was also one of the founding members of the National Minority AIDS Council. I know him, I know his struggles and I know his dedication. I am extremely confident, along with the board, that Gil is the right person for the job."

Since moving into quarters on Jefferson Blvd. that house both MAP and the church, the building has become the most visible symbol of the black lesbian and gay community in Los Angeles. It is also the busiest.

Rev. Bean also announced that, with overflow Sunday morning crowds, Unity Fellowship Church is searching for separate, larger quarters.

While the growth is welcome, according to former Minority AIDS Project board member Bobby Smith, it came quicker than expected. No one anticipated the church to grow so rapidly, he says. Although the church sanctuary was recently remodelled and enlarged, the



*Gilberto Gerald*

new space has already been swallowed up by new arrivals, many of whom bring their families as well.

A real estate agent has begun scouting South Central Los Angeles for an appropriate site that will meet parking and zoning requirements, as well as the special requirements of the Unity Fellowship congregation and community organizations that use church facilities.

MAP is expected to remain at its present Jefferson Blvd. location.

The Minority AIDS Project began in 1985. It is now internationally respected as one of the foremost and most innovative models for providing community based AIDS services.

## Tap Craig Harris for New York AIDS Post

NEW YORK—Craig Harris joined the Education Department of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) as their coordinator of AIDS prevention programs it was announced last month by executive director Richard Dunne. Harris has worked as a program consultant on GMHC's risk reduction efforts targeting the black community.

His previous professional experience includes appointments at Associate Consultants, Inc. and Koba Associates, where he designed and implemented AIDS education programs.

Harris, who has also worked for the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, was recognized as an Outstanding Young Man of America in 1987. He was educated at Vassar College, Cambridge University and the New School for Social Research.



# Statistics Paint Grim Picture for Future of AIDS Cases Among African Americans in California

By Donald Wooten, Ph.D.

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—African Americans in California have been more deeply affected by the AIDS epidemic than any other racial or ethnic group in the State, according to a report in the March issue of *California AIDS Update*. The cumulative incidence of AIDS is 93 cases per 100,000 blacks, compared to 81 for whites, 34 for Hispanics, and 11 for Asians and others. Rates for these groups in the rest of the United States are: 76 cases per 100,000 for blacks, 21 for whites, 80 for Hispanics, and 6 for Asians and others.

The number of AIDS cases among African Americans in California is increasing more rapidly than among the other racial or ethnic groups. The number of cases reported for blacks in 1988 increased by 46 percent over 1987, from 517 to 755. This is more than three times the increase for all other Californians. Through 1986, less than 9.5 percent of AIDS cases reported in this state were black. In 1987 this proportion rose to 10.4 percent, and since January 1988 it has exceeded 13 percent. These increases are significant, especially considering that blacks constitute only 7.7 percent of the State's population.

An article published in the *California AIDS Update* (July 1988) showed that the number of AIDS cases with intravenous drug use (IVDU) as primary risk was increasing at a significantly faster rate than for other groups, and that the number of cases among blacks with this risk was growing faster than other groups. Data collected through December 31, 1988 confirms the continuation of this trend: 13 percent of all AIDS cases are among African Americans have IVDU as their mode of transmission. This is five times the 2.6 percent found among non-blacks. Through 1986, 8 percent of the AIDS cases among blacks were infected because of IVDU. In 1987 the proportion rose to 1 percent, and, subsequently, to 18.5 percent. In California 38 percent of all IVDU AIDS cases are black.

Females constitute 6.9 percent of the African Americans with AIDS in California. This is nearly three times the proportion for females among all other racial or ethnic groups. Nearly one-third of these black women contracted AIDS through heterosexual contact, primarily with IVDU partners. This proportion approaches 40 percent for young black women (ages 13-29) with AIDS. IVDU by the women themselves accounts for an even larger portion of black women with AIDS: 46 percent of those over 30 years of age contracted AIDS by IVDU, while 42 percent of younger black women had this as the primary risk.

## Regional Patterns

Looking at the cumulative incidence of AIDS among African Americans in California by region, only San Francisco exceeds the statewide average of 92.8 cases per 100,000 black residence, a rate equaled by Los Angeles County. County-specific incidence is provided for the ten counties with the highest cumulative incidence and with at least ten AIDS cases reported among black residence.

"Gay/Bisexual" is by far the most commonly cited risk category for reported AIDS cases among African Americans in California. Over 82 percent of AIDS cases reported in San Francisco blacks and 73 percent of blacks with AIDS elsewhere in the State were at risk because of homosexual contact. Among non-blacks, over 90 percent

are in the gay/bisexual risk groups.

In the Rural Areas of California, over a quarter of the 111 blacks with AIDS were infected with the AIDS virus due to IVDU. Similarly, the Southern Urban Areas have reported over 22 percent of all blacks with AIDS as having IVDU as their mode of transmission. In both of these regions, the IVDU portion of new diagnosed cases has been rising: in the Rural Areas, 32 percent of black cases diagnosed in 1988 were IVDU, while the rate in the South Urban Areas was 30 percent.

Los Angeles County reported an increase in the portion of IV drug users among African Americans with AIDS from 8.4 percent of the cases diagnosed through 1987, to 13.7 percent of the cases diagnosed in 1988. This is the lowest share found in the five regions analyzed. In the Other Bay Area region, the IVDU portion of the blacks diagnosed with AIDS during the same period increased from 12.1 percent to 19.7 percent.

## AIDS among Blacks through 1991

The statewide average rate of increase during 1989-91 is estimated at 59 percent per annum. The cumulative incidence of AIDS in California African Americans during this period is projected to be 304 per 100,000 projected black population. These projections were derived using the empirical modeling method described in the projections article referred to above.

The projected rate of increase for blacks with AIDS is the highest in the South Urban Areas, where it is expected to double in both 1989-90 and 1990-91. Cumulative incidence for this region is expected to rise to 300 cases per 100,000 black residents by December 1991, surpassing the projected rates for both the Other Bay Area and Los Angeles County. It is exceeded only by San Francisco's projected rate of 1,136 per 100,000.

Of the five geographic regions, the Rural Areas region is projected to have the second most rapid rate of increase in AIDS among African Americans in 1989-91. However, with 219 projected AIDS cases per 100,000 blacks, this region will continue to have the lowest cumulative incidence rate.

Currently, Los Angeles County has roughly half of the State's total black population and half of all the State's AIDS cases among blacks. It is projected to have a 43 percent increase in the number of cases that will be diagnosed from 1987 through 1991. Because of more rapid increases expected in other regions, Los Angeles County's share of black AIDS cases in the State is expected to drop to 42 percent.

Using the same methodology, we also projected the statewide incidence of IVDU AIDS cases among African Americans. We estimate that 248 IVDU cases will occur in 1989, 445 in 1990, and 774 in 1991. Needle sharing will be the primary mode of transmission for one out of every three AIDS cases diagnosed among California blacks in 1990-91.

Our projections indicate that approximately 22 percent of all the AIDS cases that will be diagnosed in California during 1991 will be among blacks. Currently blacks account of 1 percent of all the cases reported in the State. Clearly AIDS among blacks is becoming an increasingly serious problem. The grimness of this picture underscores the need for further intensification of efforts to prevent the spread of HIV among African Americans in California.



# Ivy Young Picked to Head NGLTF's Family Project

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Feminist and African American activist Ivy Young has been selected by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to head the only national organizing project on behalf of lesbian and gay families. She becomes project director on May 1.

The Lesbian and Gay Families Project was formed through a unique collaboration between the D.C.-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). NCLR was formerly known as the Lesbian Rights Project.

"As we stand at the edge of the 21st century, it is untenable that a very small but, vociferous, segment of our nation's population still has the ability to make its definition of family one that must be adhered to by millions by citizens," said Young. "It is the non-traditional family which has become traditional. As lesbians and gay men who often bear the brunt of outmoded social construction, we must be in the vanguard of redefining what family is and of protecting the right of all those who don't fit into obsolete categories."

The Lesbian and Gay Families Project will educate, advocate, and organize for full societal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships and for the protection of lesbian and gay families. The Families Project will confront barriers facing lesbian and gay partners and parents and will tackle issues such as securing equal benefits for gay and lesbian partners; fair and equal treatment for gay and lesbian partners in custody, visitation and co-parenting arrangements; passage of non-discrimination laws regarding adoption, foster care, and artificial insemination; securing survivors rights and the right to be involved in medical decisions and treatment for our loved ones.

"We are very excited and pleased to welcome Ivy Young to the NGLTF staff," said Jeffrey Levi, NGLTF executive director. "She brings to our staff excellent organizing and communications skills. Young also brings a sophisticated political analysis of the issues facing the gay and lesbian movement and will steer the Lesbian and Gay Families Project in broad and innovative directions."

Young joins the task force with a strong background in media, grassroots organizing, and politics. She is the former general manager of WWOZ-FM in New Orleans and served as the director of public affairs for WBAI-FM in New York City from 1986 to 1988. Young was editor and anchor of daily newscasts at WHUR-FM in Washington, D.C. from 1978-1982. She was communications director for The Center for Black Education Washington from 1969-1973.

Young's political organizing work involved her in the 1988 Presidential election campaign during which she helped organize Lesbians and Gays for Jesse Jackson in New York City. She was editor of Pacifica Radio's coverage of the Democratic National Convention in July 1988. In October of 1987, she served as a consultant to organizers of the People of Color Stage (morning rally) of the National March on Washington For Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Young also has extensive grassroots organizing experience in the women's and political and cultural movements. From 1982-1985, Young was a staff member of Roadwork, Inc., the D.C.-based non-profit women's culture production company. In 1984 and 1985, she was the producer of Sisterfire, Roadwork's multi-cultural, open-air festival of women in the arts held annually in Washington, D.C. She has worked with the program in Black

American Culture at the Smithsonian Institution, the National Conference for Women in Radio, and served as a U.S. Delegate to the Third International Festival of New Song held in Ecuador in 1985.

NCLR executive director Roberta Archetnberg said, "We are delighted that Ivy Young will lead the Lesbian and Gay Families Project. Our families across the country are in crisis, and this project is of vital importance. Young's vast experience in media, coalition building and organizing ensures that the urgent needs of our gay and lesbian families will be very well served."

Levi and Achtenberg also noted the unique partnership of their organization in creating this project. "This is the first time two national groups have cooperated so closely in the launching of a major national educational and organizing project," observed Levi. "The expertise NCLR has built up in the legal research arena will complement NGLTF and Young's expertise in the political and organizing arena to forge a project whose impact will be felt for many years."

## N.J. Students Push for Black, Gay Demands

PRINCETON (UPI)—Dozens of Princeton University students staged a sit-in at the administration building last month, demanding a greater voice in the affairs of the Ivy League university.

The students, originally numbering about 125, marched into the faculty room of historic Nassau Hall about 4 p.m., and vowed to remain until President Harold Shapiro agreed to meet with them and discuss their demands.

About 90 of the students left the building after meeting with Eugene Lowe, dean of students, and it was later decided that the smaller group would remain inside for the overnight vigil.

"We are taking direct action because all other administrative channels have led to bureaucratic deadends, and the disempowerment of students," a statement issued by the ad hoc group said.

Lowe refused to discuss the student's demands. He told the group police would not be used for force them from the building, but advised them they could face university sanctions if they remained. Lowe said the school will reappraise the situation Thursday morning.

The students represented groups including Students for Social Responsibility, the Organization for Black Unity, the Third World Center, the Women's Center, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the Coalition Against Homophobia and the Chicano Caucus.

The group issued a list of nine demands calling for a greater role in selection of the dean of students, a student-elected member of the board of trustees, greater access to Shapiro and other administrators and limitations on business and government recruiters who discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The students also want the option of directing their student activity fees, nine semesters of financial aid for students who need extra time to graduate and the school's pledge to assume security costs for guest speakers.

The issue of costs of security for Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan led to the cancellation of his scheduled speech earlier this month.



## S.F. Health Pol Calls Needle Ex 'Genocide'

By Clarence Burns III

SAN FRANCISCO—At a recent San Francisco community forum, black County Health Commissioner Naomi Gray denounced the provision of hypodermic syringes for intravenous drug users (IVDUs) as virtual "genocide against black people." Prevention Point is a pilot program initiated by the County in the Tenderloin district to reduce the spread of AIDS by exchanging used needles turned in by IVDUs for sterile ones.

Gray contends that needle exchange programs are a dangerous step in the direction of legalizing addictive drugs. Since African Americans are IVDUs in higher proportions than whites, Gray believes that legalization will lead to more drug abuse—and thus to more family destruction and death—among blacks.

County health officials and AIDS activists supported the implementation of Prevention Point because studies have shown that in other cities where such programs exist, the rate of HIV infection among IVDUs is decreasing. Since women and children, particularly African Americans, primarily contract AIDS through use of contaminated syringes, it has been argued that the most effective method of preventing the spread of the disease among minorities is to reduce needle sharing.

"I was very depressed after listening to her," said longtime gay activist Brandy Moore, aide to Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. "We work so hard to reduce the impact of this disease on black people, then someone black tries to undo it."

The San Francisco program, and others like it, work on the assumption that if IVDUs do not have access to clean needles, they will use contaminated ones to continue their drug habit, infecting their sexual partners and children with AIDS in the process.

Gray and other opponents maintain that giving needles to addicts makes the government an accessory to the crime. Whether Gray believes that the government deliberately or callously instituted the program to allow increased addiction among people of color is unclear. But program supporters emphasize that only those who are already addicts are given sterile syringes when turning in used needles.

Former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson is among many black leaders who oppose decriminalization of drug use out of fear that the poor and minorities are most inclined to become IVDUs due to high socioeconomic stress. The affluent, they point out, have good incentives to avoid drug abuse, and can better afford to support their habits if they do become addicted.

## BWMT/SF Hosts Meet

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco chapter of Black and White Men Together hosted the 1989 West Coast Regional Network the weekend of March 3-5, 1989. The meeting, which was held together with the Los Angeles chapter of BWMT, featured workshops on membership, leadership and fundraising.

Members of the Seattle chapter of BWMT, who had been expected to attend, were snowed in for the weekend.

In addition to the workshops, the group participated in a variety of social activities including entertainment provided by Peter Barclay, a pianist, vocalist and composer.

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# AIDS Project East Bay Becomes Independent Org

By Clarence Burns III

OAKLAND—AIDS Project East Bay (APEB), the largest black-run AIDS agency in northern California, became an independent agency in January and moves into new Oakland headquarters this month. Previously operating under Alameda County auspices, APEB has incorporated as a non-profit agency actively soliciting both government grants and private sector donations.

The move takes place under continuing controversy surrounding its relationship to Alameda County. In early March, executive director Larry Saxxon threatened to resign, publicly accusing County health officials of failing to address AIDS aggressively among minorities. This followed the much-publicized hiring of a professional "ethicist" to advise the County on responsible allocation of its limited health care resources.

Saxxon says that because members of APEB's predominantly black board, staff and PWA clientele urged him to stay on, he retracted his resignation, "to fight like hell for my job and for the provision of services to people of color in Alameda County, especially lesbians and gays." But recently he received a letter from Dave Kears, director of County Healthcare Agencies, denying the validity of Saxxon's complaints and alleging that his problems were due to interpersonal conflicts.

Saxxon does not deny that he has been involved in such conflicts. Brought aboard as a troubleshooter when the Project was a stepchild of Berkeley's Pacific Center for Human Growth in May 1988, he admits that he imposed a no-nonsense authoritarianism.

"They were trying to raise major money with weenie roasts and wanted to 'process through' every decision. For the first time, these nice white folks had to deal with a loud black queen—who knew her shit—as their boss!" cackles Saxxon.

Saxxon learned his "shit" while developing an emergency PWA housing program for San Francisco's AIDS Foundation in 1987, and by succoring his sister, who died of AIDS in their native Miami the following year. When the Pacific Center decided to abandon APEB, Saxxon, who was completing an audit of their financially-troubled operation, was asked to take it over.

APEB's employees then became independent contractors with the County under a grant from the state Office of AIDS. That meant black service providers working without job security or benefits in the African American Oakland community had to answer to an Anglo bureaucracy. The situation virtually invited discord.

"Alameda County has 15,000 HIV positives, 800 diagnosed PWAs, 30,000 intravenous drug users and a syphilis epidemic. County officials were bragging about spending a lousy \$1 million a year on AIDS. I told them they should be 'shamed,'" Saxxon recalls.

Provision of a full array of HIV services including education, outreach, clinic, legal aid and counseling for 400 clients on a paltry annual budget of \$418,000 may help explain why Saxxon is still on staff despite making such scathing criticisms—and why he continues to criticize.

While some observers, not all white, have accused him of being confrontative, vain and manipulative, others grudgingly concede that his tough hide and aggressiveness have served his agency in good stead thus far. As the Project embarks upon its new life as an independent black-run corporation, Larry Saxxon will have plenty of opportunities to prove that he remains its best pilot and advocate.



Larry Saxxon

## D.C. Gets AIDS Clinic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—After wearing testimony from four members of a newly formed black gay organization, Washington, D.C.'s City Council has agreed to help fund a new health facility for sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs).

The body tentatively allocated \$500,000 for fiscal 1990. Four of the District's best known gay activists requested commitment from the City: Chris Bates, former co-chair of BWMT/DC; Jim Harvey, deputy director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic; Chuck Hicks of Best Friends; and Undre Scott, co-owner of the Clubhouse and founder of Us Helping Us.

The idea for locating an AIDS counseling center and clinic in the African American community began six months ago when Bates gathered together several activist friends to share ideas and offer mutual support for each other's professional endeavors. The black AIDS facility soon grew from an idle fantasy into an active project, and catalyzed the group's transformation into the African American Collective (AAC).

"AAC does not plan to run the STD facility. We're more of an evolving think tank, initiating and assessing ideas and projects," said Bates.

Yet AAC's members, as individuals, may carry enough clout in the District to translate dreams into reality. Bates has just been asked to serve on the City's new Commission on Domestic Partner's Benefits. Other AAC members include Human Rights Commissioner Linda Lawson and special assistant to the mayor Cliff Roberson.



# South Central AIDS Agencies Almost Defunded

LOS ANGELES—Only four community-based organizations providing AIDS services in South Central Los Angeles were funded by the state for fiscal year 1990, and then only after public protests were made. In its latest cycle of grants, the Office of AIDS initially defunded four black-run AIDS agencies and rejected all proposals submitted by black organizations. Of \$3 million allocated to L.A. AIDS agencies, only 8.5 percent was to be disbursed to minority agencies. In addition, black AIDS agencies in the Bay area, and Latino organizations in both northern and southern California lost their state funding.

As the news spread among minority AIDS administrators, bewilderment gave way to anger. While King-Drew Medical Center and several westside agencies were refunded, the first is not a CBO and the latter are Anglo-run and focused. Previous meetings with state officials and politicians had led South Central CBO's to believe that the growing rate of HIV infection among blacks would be met with increased funding in black target areas.

Phill Wilson, chair of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, hastily organized a meeting of the rejected service providers to explore strategies for a concerted response. Refunded agencies such as AIDS project Los Angeles (ALPA), were asked to participate as a gesture of support. Although ALPA sent no representative, King-Drew Medical Center chose to host and actively support the South Central CBOs. Senators Bill Greene and Diane Watson sent representatives.

Meanwhile, Wilson and the CBOs launched vigorous lobbying campaigns to determine the reason for and to reverse OOA's decisions. Calls flooded in to Thelma Fraizear, Director of OOA, from the offices of Watson, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, and several Latino legislators.

During the CBO meeting, Wilson's suggestion that a press conference denouncing the state's action be held, was agreed upon. In addition, the CBO representatives decided to work more closely together and to carry their case to Sacramento politicians and OOA in person.

In the middle of the meeting, word was received through Watson's office that OOA had revised its awards, and chosen to refund those South Central CBOs which had previously been funded. None of the first-time applicants, however, received funding. Both old and new applicants were advised that they were initially defunded because of poor contract compliance and, especially, submission of inferior proposals. They were refunded, Fraizear's office said, only because of OOA's desire to fund AIDS agencies based in targeted, high-risk communities.

After further discussion, the refunded agencies's representatives agreed to proceed with the planned press conference, partially to show solidarity with non-funded CBOs, and partially to register their objections to OOA's policy and handling of their contracts.

Shortly thereafter, some of those involved received calls from Brandy Moore, a black gay assistant to speaker Willie Brown based in San Francisco. Moore urged CBO representatives to take care not to jeopardize their future funding or to antagonize black legislators by overreacting with public criticism of Fraizear, a black administrator unpopular with some AIDS service providers, but respected by black politicians for running a controversial and notoriously underfunded agency under the hostile administration of Gov. George Deukmejian.

Prior to the Tuesday morning press conference, the minority service providers again met to solidify their strategy with Rev. Carl Bean, executive director of the Minority AIDS Project, echoing Moore's comments based on his communications with Assemblywoman Waters, most of the CBO representatives wanted either to cancel the press conference or to remain silent and off-camera. Debate grew heated as the press corps gathered just outside the conference room at the Urban League.

Finally it was agreed that the only speakers would be Charles Stewart, representing Watson, who chairs the Senate Health Committee and Phill Wilson.

When the press were allowed in, Stewart pointed out that the Governor's refusal to allow AIDS funding to increase as HIV infection spread and shifted to the minority population, effectively pitted AIDS service providers against one another in competition for scarce dollars. He said Senator Watson was requesting a meeting with the State's director of Health Services to push for greater responsiveness to the trends of the AIDS epidemic.

Wilson stressed that AIDS monies and services were not being directed to the communities and populations at highest risk: gay and bisexual African Americans in South Central Los Angeles and the Bay area.

Agencies which were funded by OOA following lobbying efforts were: the AIDS Project of First African Methodist Episcopal Church (\$50,000), the Julia Hillman Drug and Alcohol Center (\$82,000); MAP (\$165,000) and the Watts Health Foundation (\$100,000). However, YES of San Francisco, run by black lesbian activist Pat Norman, was not refunded.



*"I don't care whether he was from your hometown or not. I'm the boss, and I get to take him out first."*



# Harris Becomes First Female Episcopal Bishop

BOSTON—The Rev. Barbara Harris joins an Episcopal diocese that is considered to be among the most progressive in the nation.

Harris, 58, was consecrated last month as a suffragan, or assistant, bishop of Massachusetts but is considered a full bishop. She is the first woman elected to the position in the 450-year history of the church, which has 2.5 million members in the United States.

Her selection has drawn criticism from church members who say she lacks proper theological training, education and experience in the ministry. Some say the gender factor, coupled with liberal views on many church social issues, will cause a split among the leadership and will lead to a drop in membership.

"It is probably the only diocese in the entire world that would elect her. Her credentials, divorce, lack of education if she had been a man she would never have gotten past the first cut," said Rev. Titus Oates of Boston, an ardent opponent of Harris's selection.

Supporters say Harris, ordained in 1980, is the right person for leadership. They stress that her outspokenness and commitment to urban and contemporary social issues, like racial and gender equality, is not opportunistic or radical, but dedicated activism based on deeply rooted church ideals.

"From the very beginning, Massachusetts Episcopalians made room for and tolerated different ways of responding to the Christian faith," said retired Rev. George Blackmon, an expert on church history.

"Massachusetts was one of the few dioceses to have such an active organization advocating priesthood for women," said Rev. Elsa Walberg, an authority on women in the ministry and the first female ordained in the Episcopal Church in Massachusetts.

There are 88 women serving as deacons or priests in Massachusetts Episcopal parishes. "We are visible everywhere and the roofs are not caving in," said Walberg. "There are more and more parishes becoming more comfortable. Five years ago that was very iffy."

"You could say an explicit part of the leadership of the diocese is [due to] a concern for minorities, women and the black community," Blackmon said.

In 1976, a study called for the Massachusetts diocese to move beyond institutional matters and to strengthen the ministry in areas of economic, social and cultural concerns.

Rev. David Johnson, the Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts, says the diocese is seen as politically progressive with an urban agenda. "So many of the [parishes] are urban. They are not part of greater Boston. They are urban communities with many...problems."

Harris fits the blueprint. She grew up in Philadelphia and in her early years in the church she was active in civil rights issues and served as a volunteer prison chaplain. She also ran the Episcopal Church Publishing Co., a separate journal advocating peace and justice.

Harris, who is black and divorced, has taken strong positions against poverty, discrimination against homosexual clergy, apartheid, and other racial or sexual prejudice.

She has pushed for ordination of women, but says she will not use her position to solely further that cause. She avoids political labels, saying a liberal tag would isolate her from many church issues.

With the selection of Harris, some traditionalists say Massachusetts has led the church to its final crisis. "Massachusetts is not in step with the rest of the country,"

Oates said.

But Johnson says despite its progressiveness, the Massachusetts diocese has many who are "middle of the road" and who have "strong historical roots and value systems that do not tend to be radical or flamboyant."

## Sullivan OKs Needles; HHS Says Lose Fed \$

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—An arm of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is warning local AIDS programs they could lose federal money if they support needle-exchange programs, even though the head of HHS has more recently endorsed such programs.

The warning was contained in a memo dated February 19 from the National Institute of Drug Abuse. The memo went out recently before HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan endorsed local programs that let drug addicts trade their used needles for clean ones to stem the spread of AIDS.

Sullivan, whose department includes the Public Health Service, which oversees the institute, also said the federal government could provide information and personnel to such programs.

But Public Health Service spokesman James Brown denied a conflict between the memo and Sullivan's comments. He said the policies of both the service and the White House prohibit use of federal funds for needle-exchange programs, but if that policy were changed, the department could provide such federal support.

"You could do it, which is what Sullivan said," Brown said. "We're not doing it and NIDA [the institute] is telling people we're not going to do it."

## Gay PAC Seeks Black Applicants for Top Post

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's ninth largest political action committee or PAC, is actively recruiting black lesbians and gays to apply for the post of executive director. The \$75,000 per year job becomes available July 1, 1989.

Director Vic Basile announced his resignation earlier this year, and is participating in the selection of his successor. After several years as head of the only national gay PAC, Basile has decided to pursue other interests.

HRCF's executive director is responsible for both advocacy and operations connected with the PAC's gay and AIDS lobby. Applicant expertise is sought in four areas: administration, communications, fundraising and politics. The executive director will supervise a staff of 23 and be answerable to a board of directors.

HRCF, whose 1988 budget was \$1.8 million, recently divided its functions among several subsidiary corporations. It has become a membership organization, with decision and fundraising responsibilities reserved to the board of directors.

The board's national search committee is expected to screen and recommend a candidate by early May, and the board may fill the position before the end of June. Qualified black applicants may contact Tim Hull, search committee consultant, at 202-467-8870.



## Rangel Slams Sullivan on Needle Exchange

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), issued a stinging attack last month on Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan for supporting clean-needle programs for drug users in communities trying to stop the spread of AIDS.

Rangel said he found it shocking that Sullivan, who took over the health agency shortly after Bush was elected, would advocate the idea of exchanging needles with drug addicts instead of proposing programs to expand drug treatment services.

"The first step he takes in drug abuse is to appear to give support to addicts by giving them needles," Rangel said. "It's an immoral thing to distribute needles to addicts. The next thing you know they'll be distributing drugs."

"It sends a message to the minority community that we don't have the time, the resources or the will to try to get you off drugs and back into the mainstream, but we do have the time to give you sterile needles," he said.

Sullivan, said he does not believe needle-exchange programs condone drug abuse, but rather could deal with one way the deadly AIDS virus is spread—among drug addicts through the use of shared needles. Once infected, addicts also can spread the disease to sex partners and their babies.

While emphasizing that decisions on such programs should be made locally, Sullivan said needle-exchange programs "deserve a chance for an appropriate trial" in communities that want them.

New York City Health Commissioner Stephen C. Joseph said Sullivan's support was a "tremendous boost" to his program, one of only a few in the country.

The New York program has enrolled 92 addicts, 60 percent of whom are infected with the AIDS virus—"and that's viruses taken off the street," he said.

However, Rangel called the New York program "a complete flop." He also opposes a recent HHS proposal to make it easier for heroin addicts to get methadone while waiting for comprehensive treatment, saying the program would only "substitute one addictive drug for another."

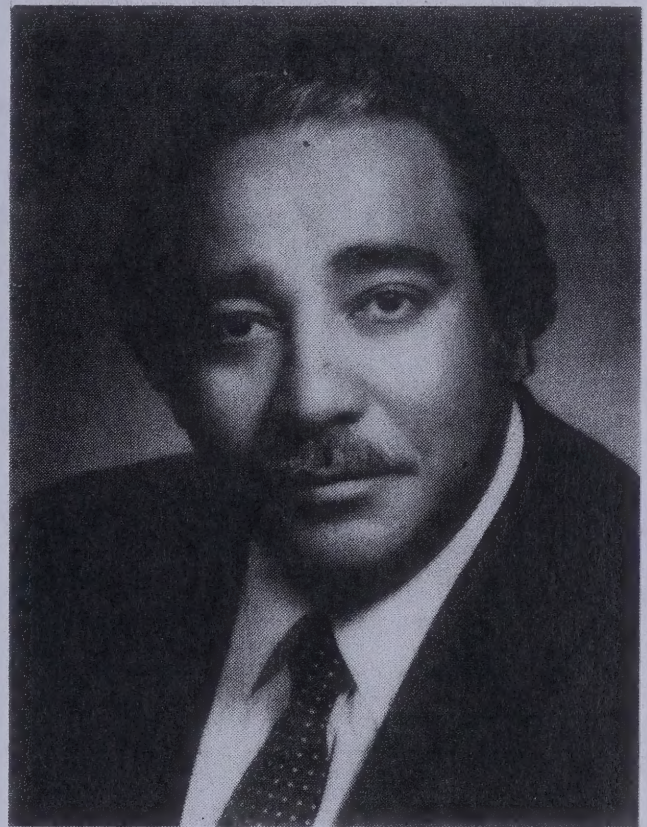
In a related development, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Association announced a \$75 million grant program to expand drug treatment services in cities that have waiting lists of more than one month. A critical purpose of the grants, the agency said, is to help get addicts off the streets faster to reduce the spread of AIDS.

## 2,127 Die in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP)—More than half of Tanzania's 4,158 AIDS victims have died, and prostitution has been primarily responsible for the virus's spread in this East African nation, government-run Radio Tanzania reported Tuesday.

The radio quoted Dr. Raymond Swai, who heads Tanzania's AIDS control program, as saying 2,127 people had died as a result of the virus since it first was reported in 1983.

Swai, who was addressing a four-day AIDS control workshop in the capital Dodoma, blamed prostitution for 80 percent of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome's spread in Tanzania, according to the broadcast.



Charles B. Rangel

## S.F. Women Dance for Fall Racism Confab

SAN FRANCISCO—Over 100 women weathered the cold and rain to dance to the rhythms of salsa, soul and funk at Colors with DJs Francoise and Chata (KPFA/KPOO) March 9. The occasion was the kickoff fundraiser for the Lesbian Agenda for Action (LAFA) conference on racism scheduled for November 1989.

"It was good to see such a colorful crowd," said Geneva Fernandez, co-partner of Colors. "That's what Colors is about—incorporating the diversity of the lesbian community. It's the only place of its kind in town."

The multiracial setting provided a place for all lesbians to come and socialize and hear about the upcoming conference. The planning committee consists of both LAFA and non-LAFA activists.

"We're real excited by the response. Especially as it was put together with fairly short notice," said L. A. Hyder. "The women came out because they're interested in what we're doing."

Other fundraising event planned for the future include Thursday night dances at Colors and a film series at the York featuring Bay Area talent. LAFA can be reached at 3543 - 18th St. #32, San Francisco, CA 94110. Telephone 415-522-5677.

The monthly AIDS report for the black community does not appear in this issue because the national Centers for Disease Control is in the process of changing their reporting format. The summary will resume next month.



**BLK**  
Number 3, February 1989

## NEW OR RENEWAL SUBSCRIPTION

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**BLK**

Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912

*BLK is mailed in an envelope.*



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

**THE HORIZON IS NOT A PIANO BAR**, and there's no hired entertainment during the week. But sometimes when blacks gather and brew together a certain mixture of cold beer and warm flesh, conversation loosens and laughter sings. The American in us recedes and the African quickens. From somewhere we hear percussion music which contracts our muscles in rhythmic anticipation. We remember steps, notes, rituals we have never been taught.

Early one night last week the club was so dark, so empty that the chairs and tables at the far end of the



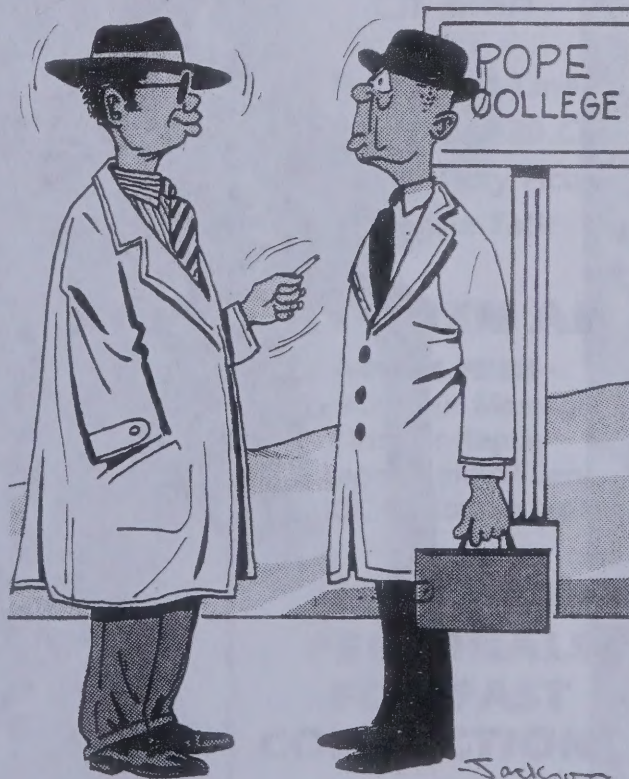
room became vaguely menacing silhouettes. But at the bar, someone beckoned to **John**. John's arm rose in an arc and descended in front of **Mary**. A moment earlier she had stood head down, shoulders slumped, bent beneath some private pain. But she giggled when John poured her the pina colada. The more she sipped the broader her smile grew. Until everyone in the club was looking at her, seeing something we all recognized and did not need to name.

John paced us. "Alright, alright, I know what y'all need," he soothed in his gravel-bass voice. He nodded at **Gene**, the barback, and disappeared into a back room, while Gene uncovered one of the distant silhouettes to reveal a white, baby grand piano. **Big Ed** escorted Mary to its side and sat her on the bench. She lifted her head and we could see her in profile, full lips, full 'fro, round face; she looked like an older, happier **Tracy Chapman**.

John materialized from the shadows with a live microphone. At first, Mary's hands did not remember the keys—it had been a long time—but as she sang, chords flowed out of her fingertips and the piano's resistance yielded to her sweet touch. Her voice was warm, not brilliant, inviting us to add our own. Show tunes and love songs and jazz-blues. Some of us stood, others sat at the bar, but everybody sang, everybody jammed. And Mary, singing into the darkness, wailed "I'm a woman-loving woman!..."

**WE WANTED TO KNOW ONCE AND FOR ALL** just what (who) was going down (on who) at the **Cottage**, so we decided to sneak up on the Pico bar in mid-week. We saw nothing that would give anyone a clue that Dorothy's friends hung out there. Now owned by the Hawaiian—Japanese family which runs the fast food eatery next door, we are nonetheless assured that discreet liaisons are still struck up in the darker corners, while the heteros are engrossed in the ballgames on the video...Meanwhile, over and up a few blocks, the **Carriage Trade** carries on, its trade, still the most genteel, if not the most genial bar in Gaytown. We'd heard that when longtime bartender **JD** was summarily canned, he betook himself and his loyal clientele to West Hollywood's **Rose Tatoo**. So we sauntered over. The Tatoo still looks like and

caters to the *nouveau gauche*, but AKA sorors will love it: pink and green and mirrors everywhere. Back at the Trade, you won't find more gay buppies anywhere than here during happy hours, led by longtime patron, **Clarance**...Motorcycle stud **Harry Morse**, ex-manager of the old Griff's, has been showing up at the new Griff's lately, apparently to quell those rumors that **Griff Martin** and **Wes Kunej** fired him when they switched locations a few months ago. Whatever. If some are pissed that Wes and Griff have tried to convert what was once the **Stud** from an interracial into a leather bar, nobody can deny that they were the first and only owners of a white gay bar to simultaneously employ a black manager (Harry), bartender and barback. So if ever-gracious Harry harbors no grudges, who are we to gripe?...**Dennis H.**, denizen of too many north-of-Pico saloons to name, recently opened up a new gateway to Palm Springs. His latest find, with whom he is not-yet-lovers, shuttles between the desert and Brentwood, hauling Dennis with him whenever he can: But at the moment, Dennis is in Vancouver on—ahem—business...Now that spring is here, what hunky Inglewood political activist seems unable to resist showing off his assets in the tightest, shortest shorts he can campaign in?...Maybe the U.S. should withdraw from the United Nations as right wingers often demand and affiliate with the **Annex** instead: On a recent Saturday night, we counted: 12 blacks, five Anglos, three Latinos, two Pilipinos, six women and two transpersons, all getting along as if they were passengers on Noah's Ark...Don't forget: If you've got good dish, call 213-410-0808 and spit it out. We won't even ask your name. But remember, Sugarlump, we have to be able to verify your tale, so be sure to tell us know.



"No, Professor Jones, I wasn't in your Psych class today, but I was in the 3rd floor john, 2nd stall, just before your psych class."

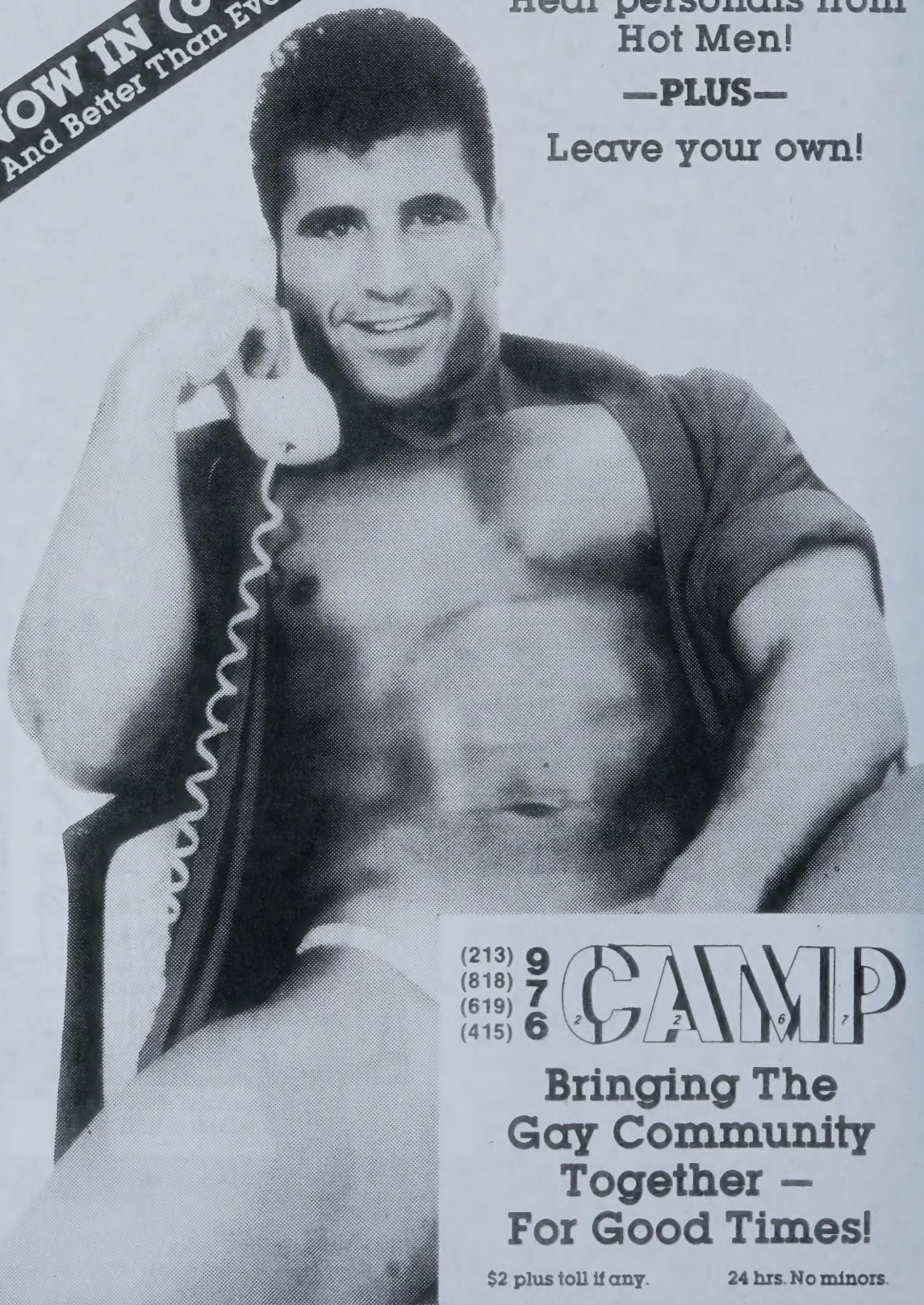


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# Blk List

If you want your organization Blk Listed, drop a note to Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. Deadline for the May issue is April 24, 1989. The Blk List is designed for events the occur on a regular schedule. One-time events appear on the Blk Board.

\*Slightly black

\*\*Significantly black

\*\*\*Almost all black

\*\*\*\*Whites don't get a warm and cozy reception

†Mixed gay and straight

## BARS AND BATHS

**Annex\***, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.

**Basgo's\***, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.

**Caper Room\*\*\***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403. Mondays 10 p.m. Sir Marshall; Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male exotic dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Thursdays 9:30 p.m. Love Connection show; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.

**Catch One\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. 1st and 3rd Sundays 4-8 p.m. Women's Tea Dance with proceeds to Minority AIDS Project and Alcoholism Center for Women; Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.

**Cottage\*\*\*†**, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.

**Cover Girl Club\*\*\*†**, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595. Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)

**Eagle\***, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252.

**Foster's Club Penthouse\*\***, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd. #3, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-837-5881.

**Griff's\***, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889. Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.

**Horizon\*\*\***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678. Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Sundays and Wednesdays 10 p.m. The LaVerne Show; Mondays 9 p.m. Men's night and Gong Show with DJ; Tuesdays Wellfare Night; Thursdays Male exotic dancers.

**Jewel's Room\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.

**Midtowne Spa\*\***, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price, 8 p.m. until Dancing downstairs; Wednesdays 8 p.m. Drawing for \$50 first prize; Fridays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs, 10 p.m. Erotic dance show; Saturdays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs.

**Rage\***, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7596. Tuesdays Gong Show, and 10 p.m.-2 a.m. London Life; 3rd Wednesday Fashion Show.

**Study\*\***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-9551. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour.

## RESTAURANTS

**Carriage Trade\***, 8225 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, 213-655-6425.

**Casita de Campo\***, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-662-4255.

**Crest\***, 3725 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-660-3645.

## ORGANIZATIONS

**Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group**, 168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Saturdays 5 p.m.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 6 p.m.

**Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-667-2549. Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-274-3398. 1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Jack**, Box 83515, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515, 213-338-1516.

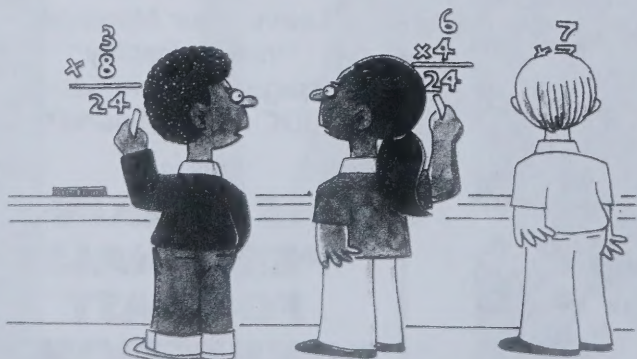
**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together**, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, West Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716. Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 2nd Sunday 4 p.m. HIV+ Support pot luck dinner (location varies); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering committee meeting (location varies).

**Black and White Men Together**, National Organization, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.

**Black and White Men Together**, 2269 Market St. #199, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-664-0234.



WINNERS

"This is how it starts, you know.  
The division between gay men and lesbians  
that will haunt us all our lives."



213-274-3398.

**Black Lesbians and Gays for Justice**, Box 341412, Los Angeles, CA 090034, 213-664-0234.

**Ebony Connection**, 227 Congress St. #125, Austin, TX 78767, 512-478-DRUM.

**Gentlemen Concerned**, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

**Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women**, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805. Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color; Wednesdays Women of color support group.

**Lesbians of Colour**, Box 6597, Sta. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X9, Canada.

**Makeda**, 1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105. Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays 5 p.m. Women's rap group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" black women support group.

**Minority AIDS Project**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking support group; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS support group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); Fridays 1 p.m. Family members of AIDS patients support group.

**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219, 313-537-0484.

**National Minority AIDS Council**, 714 G St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-1076.

**Unity Fellowship Church**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship service; Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible study; Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**, 4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B, Compton, CA 90221, 213-639-3068. Thursdays 7 p.m. Positive approach to wellness support group for PWAs or HIV+s (Held at Watts Health Medical Holistic Center, 7514 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044).

**Womyn of Colors**, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205, Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**, 9001 Keith Ave., West Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Z and Z Productions**, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039, 213-663-6340.



*"If I were white and straight, I'd be 'versatile.'*

*But I'm black and gay, so I'm 'overqualified.'*

*...How'd you like to have me put this T-square up where the sun doesn't shine?"*

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# Blk Market

## SERVICES

Prestige Club Complete Auto Detailers. Buy a new car or just make it look like one. Low price, prestige quality because at Prestige Club, you're one of us. Call 213-874-5437. (7)

Personal health and fitness instructor. Phone Mack at 213-465-2551. (6)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

AIDS Nursing Care: RNs, LVNs, CNAs, all shifts. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (6)

Executive Director. Impact, lesbian and gay political action committee. Responsible for strategic and political planning, fundraising, communications, reporting. Requires knowledge local/state politics, media, database and word processing, written/oral skills. Salary \$30-35,000. Equal opportunity employer. Resume and two reference letters by April 29, 1989. Impact, 3225 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657. (5)

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Recovery Anonymous/12 Step†, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (7)

San Diego AIDS Project craves black input. Call 619-543-0300. (7)

Nechama Jewish AIDS education, advocacy, referral. 213-653-8313. (6)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for a roommate for 3-bedroom house. \$350 month including utilities. Call 213-960-7746. (7)

## MASSEURS

Non-sexual massage by hot BiWM, 195 lbs., 5'10" body-builder, big thighs, bubble butt. Certified, with table. \$40/hour. 213-204-6384. (7)

Very attractive body builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

## PERSONALS—EASTERN U.S.

GWM, 40, 130 pounds, 5'5", trim, clean, hung, healthy, smooth, tender, successful professional, seeks black for short or long-term companion to share bed, country living and city entertainment. No unhealthy habits. Hot for meeting you, seeing photo. Derick B., Box 1022, Greenwich, CT 06836. (5)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53

years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or active. 40 to 70. No drugs, fems, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ 08607-2223. (9)

Black male, educated, cultured, refined, interested in corresponding and meeting compatible males, any race or religion. Rev. R. J. Strickland, Box 72, Boston, MA 02126-0072. (7)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

Black Chicago area friend needed. Call Mick 312-956-0006. 6'2", 180 lbs. waiting just for the right man. Or write Box 1962, Des Plaines, IL 60018. Come on guys, go for it! (5)

## PERSONALS—WESTERN U.S.

Handsome GWM, 35, tall muscular, lean, seeks very muscular black man for passion with future. William 415-431-2656. (6)

Discreet? Creative? Experimental? Married? Limited time? professional middle age WM looking for close straight-appearing friend for quality times. 25-45. Former 15-year friend transferred. Black/Latin/Mid East. Write Robert Belton, Box 741360, Los Angeles, CA 90004. (5)

WM, 28, 6'2", 190#, 44" c., 33" w., Gr/A, Fr A/P. Want to meet all football players, wrestlers, weightlifters, 6'-7"+, 200-300#+. I am good-looking and masculine. (HIV neg.) 213-394-8689. (5)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272(7)

GWM, 55, 5'10", 190 lbs., quiet homebody in recent years. Which darling young thing, 35-60, will help bring him out again? Friendship, hopefully 1-on-1. No role-playing. Small endowed, uncut okay. Hans. 213-256-7568, or 927 Pine Grove Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90042 (Eagle Rock). (5)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disappointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

25-year-old attractive green-eyed, loving South'rn belle (GWM) seeking black masculine men (22-35) for loving fun, and stable companionship. Ya'll come and experience true South'rn hospitality. Darryl. 213-386-6449. (5)

Good-looking, GBM, 6'4", 36, 220 lbs., fair, bearded, professional, stalking articulate cuddle-bear, beefy and bearded (well, a moustache'll do) who will savor and succor, challenge and cherish, explore frontiers and frottage. Nothing easy sought or offered here, though a bed buddy would appeal: I'm uncertain if I'm focused or generous enough to be anyone's lover. Domestic, I'm not. Being intense, analytical and verbal, similar types attract; others beware. But I do love to laugh. If I sound like the stray pet you've been looking for, write Alex, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-237, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (7)

I love dark skins. Mature GWM, 65, seeks caring other for 1-to-1, possible lifemate. Healthy, shy, versatile, non-smoker. Love books, films, music, sharing TLC. Let's explore potentials. Looks unimportant, character is.



**THE**

# **BLACK LINE**

**TWICE THE  
ACTION OF  
ANY OTHER**

**976**

# **HUGE**



**\$2.00 PLUS TOLL IF ANY**



Letter/photo to Gene, 328 N. Ave. 59, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (6)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (5)

GWM, 50 years old, great shape, nice smooth body, bottom fem. and passive, seeks top, dominant male for steady friendship at my home in Northwest San Fernando Valley. A nice, spiritual person like me. No booze, drugs, marrieds or hassle. (I am not a switch-hitter. (Me Jane, you Tarzan, a must.) If interested, please call me at 818-999-1897. Andra. (5)

Nude talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (5)

Educated BM, 20s, seeks other masculine, mature, brassy, intelligent black males for friendship and fun. Looking for individuals who are well-rounded and enjoy the most of what life has to offer. Open-minded, adaptability a must. No effeminates! Respond with letter/photo. Photo will be returned. Box 18A255, Los Angeles, CA 90018. (5)

Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

WM, attractive hung FP, 50s, HIV negative, seeks good-looking smooth FA, any race, into classic films, opera, etc. Photo and phone to Brad, Box 85462, Los Angeles, CA 90072. (5)

12 step program. Handsome, 60, 8 years young, seeks friend (possible relationship) under 50. Box 155, 8721 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (5)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138. (7)

Hot, handsome, hunky New York Greek, 26, Br/Bl-eyed, nutritionist/weight instructor seeks big black very muscular just-released-from-prison-looking man (24-36). Love safe sex, but not necessary; "just buddies" is great. Jim 213-874-5437. (5)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Hollywood, CA 90078. (7)

Commitment and values. Blk/M, 38, seeks an affectionate and stable Grk/A man 40-55 who likes nature, homelife and 1-to-1. Any race. Mel 213-656-0258, ext.22. (5)

Butch GWM, 51, seeks GR/A black SFV buddy. 818-766-6033. (6)

Blond hunk seeks young thin top. Box 75441, LA 90075(6)

European, bi, trim, safe, seeks thick or uncut-endowed. Box 2733, Los Angeles, CA 90078. (6)

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Hot, muscular white dude with a pussy-ass wants beer-can thick dicks. Young, black total top, hung at least 9" long and 6" around. Call 213-656-5371. (5)

Puerto Rican, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs., seeking daytime masculine black-Latins hung fat to please. Willie 213-657-2539. (6)

GBM, age 28, 5'6", 120 lbs. seeks true love. Any race: macho Call 213-204-5329. (5)

## HOW TO GET INTO THE BLK MARKET FREE

• **Personal ads** of 10 words or less free. Over 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

• **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

• **All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.

• **Box number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK box for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

• **Replying to a BLK box.** Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Box #

BLK Classifieds

Box 83912

Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

• **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1. If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is strictly confidential and will not appear in your ad.

### Please complete and sign the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for May issue: April 24, 1989.

### Figure cost of ad:

\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ words at 5¢ (employment only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cost to run ad one month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone verification at \$1 (if required) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BLK Box at \$5 per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed (do not send cash) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083



# MIDTOWNE SPA



**"Serving the  
Gay Black  
Community  
For Over 20  
Years"**

## WE NEVER CLOSE

**24 hours a day there's  
someone here for you!**

A safe place to come . . .

A clean place to come . . .

A fun place to come . . .

A healthy place to come . . .

**COME BY SOON . . . YOU ALL**

$\frac{1}{2}$  price on Tuesday • Full service  
every day of the year



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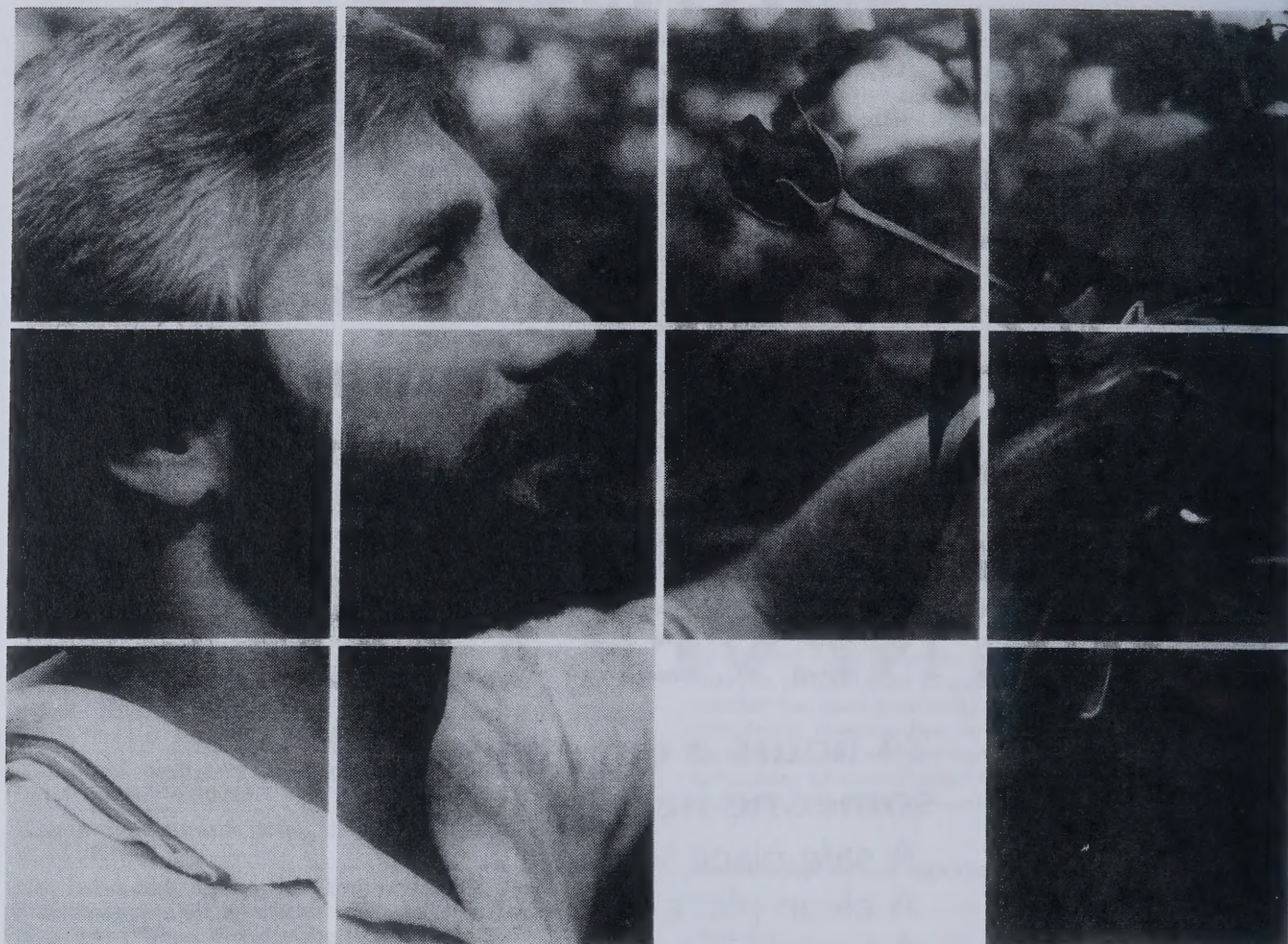
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# BLK

Number 5, April 1989



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# Blk Board

To have your event put on the Blk Board, contact Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. Deadline for the May issue is April 24, 1989. The Blk Board is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are Blk Listed.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1989

People of Color Mobilizing Against AIDS is sponsoring a march and rally on the occasion of the National Black Mayor's Conference in Oakland, California. 11 a.m. Assemble at Lake Merritt BART station; 12 noon March begins; 1:30-3:30 p.m. Rally begins at City Hall.

Second Black Lesbian and Gay Conference to be held in Birmingham, England April 1-2. For more information, write 25 Garfield St., Leicester LE4 5GF, England.

Softball Tryouts begin for Unity Fellowship Softball Team. Jim Gilliam Park, 400 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, California. 10 a.m. Tryouts run through end of April. Call Thea Wilson for more information. 213-935-4105.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1989

Catch One's 17th Anniversary Celebration continues with a fashion show by Devo and a performance by Dr. Love, a new group headed by an ex-member of the Delfonics.

Maxine Waters will speak at Unity Fellowship Church as part of the group's 4th Anniversary Celebration. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 11:30 a.m.

Chapter Playshop and Facilitator Training Sessions sponsored by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention. Held in Detroit, Michigan through April 2-4. Call Reggie Williams for more information 415-673-8133, or write the Task Force at 1101 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1989

Softball Tryouts begin for Unity Fellowship Softball Team. Queen Anne Park, 1240 West Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 7 p.m. Tryouts run through end of April. Call Thea Wilson for more information. 213-935-4105.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1989

Eighth Annual Installation Banquet sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. 7:30 p.m. No-host bar. Awards. DJ dancing. \$30. Call Rene Seidel for more information. 213-483-1108.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 1989

Rev. Steve Peters, a longtime PWA survivor, will speak at Unity Fellowship Church as part of their 4th Anniversary Celebration. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 11:30 a.m.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1989

"Hot, Healthy and Horny" safer sex workshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call Phill Wilson for more information. 213-667-2549.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1989

Renee McCoy, executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays will be one of the keynote speakers at the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men to be held in Dallas, Texas April 13-16, 1989. Box 190712, Dallas, TX 75219. 214-471-6040.

Chapter Playshop sponsored by the National Task Force on

AIDS Prevention. Held in Dallas through April 13-16. Call Reggie Williams for more information 415-673-8133, or write the Task Force at 1101 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1989

Birthday Party for South Bay Court Emperor Dane at Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, California. 8 p.m. \$3 donation. Proceed to the South Bay Court. For more information contact Dane. 213-671-7323.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1989

"Hot, Healthy and Horny" safer sex workshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call Phill Wilson for more information. 213-667-2549.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1989

Black and White Men Together/Detroit Anniversary and Midwest Region Network Meeting. Workshops, board meeting, banquet and brunch. Field trip to a Canadian bar. 313-965-4646.

## SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1989

Jewel Williams, owner of the Catch One, is celebrating her 50th Birthday with a dinner at Catch One. 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 3 p.m. Reservations required. 213-737-1159.

## FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

Black and White Men Together/Youngstown Sixth Anniversary Weekend called "Getting to Know Ourselves." Workshops, reception, picnic, brunch, banquet, party, film and sports. Free housing. May 19-21. For more information, call Don at 216-782-3483 or Bob at 216-747-3624.

## SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1989

Planning Meeting for a Black Lesbian Conference called by an ad hoc committee. Open to all black women. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, California. 2:30 p.m. Call Gini for more information. 213-204-3894.



"No you can't leave. I'm a strong mother making up for your weak father. Together, we're teaching you to be a gay snob."



# Blk Mail

Dear Editor:

Even though the few words ["Read My Lips," BLK, March 1989] were intended to be written in jest, those few words were a poor choice. Ms. Metoyer is a single woman, we are friends and at no time were there thoughts of bloodshed.

All of us that know one another know this. However, there are many more people that read your magazine. Could you in some way assure those many other readers that indeed our conference was successful and that "Read My Lips" is pure satire.

Edwina Conley  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Editor:

What an excellent interview! The Randy Cochran [BLK, March 1989] was super. Honest, sensitive and caring are the best way to describe it.

How nice to get a true story from such a good model and star. Usually those guys hide things and hedge, but not Randy. That's great! Hats off to him.

Ralph F. Navarro  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Editor:

An organization calling themselves the Black Lesbians and Gay for Health and Justice circulated a rambling letter to some of the participants at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference, claiming exclusion and elitism.

The letter claimed that people were turned away from conference events for lack of funds, yet an examination of registration records reveal over five dozen men and women received full or partial scholarships to be able to participate, including many people with AIDS.

More than 100 volunteers, from students to senior citizens, were on hand to assist with the events at the Hilton, Catch One, and the Minority AIDS Project...

A search through the listings provided by the Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, Pacific Bell Information, the Minority AIDS Project, and the various gay hotlines services in Southern California failed to provide any information on BLGHJ. Likewise the organization did not appear anywhere among the 10,000 names on mailing lists compiled from every major black lesbian and gay organization in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain...

Planning meetings for the conference were open to the public all year round, advertised in both the gay and black media, including radio and street banners...The continued contributions of thousands of volunteer hours throughout the year would erase any perception of the conference as a one-man "Phill Wilson Show."

It is sad that a mark of the success of the conference is how low detractors must stoop in order to attack it, while those who complain, as always, are those who are so unwilling to get involved to see their own agendas advanced.

Mark Haile  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Editor:

Contributing writers for BLK seemed to have been

quite occupied with me in the last edition [BLK, March 1989] and not occupied with the real issues that were stated in the letter circulated by members of BLGHJ or what really happened the conference and what is really happening throughout our community when it comes to the issues of black people, classism and the lack of grassroots engaging or support coming from our so-called "leaders"...

We never "cornered" or told Natalie that we were too poor to get into the [National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership] conference. We simply presented to her with the letter that was circulated. It was totally her idea to "read" the classist and opportunistic divas that were putting on the event... She was "through, baby" when she saw with her own eyes that there were people outside who couldn't afford to get into the luncheon... Natalie is a "down" sister and her response... was strictly her own.

Natalie did offer to pay Rolanda and I to get into the conference luncheon. We told her that we were not willing to pay for something we didn't support. She felt that what we had to say needed to be heard and she decided that she would escort us into the luncheon herself since we weren't willing to pay for it. In response to Preston Guider's comments that Rolanda and I are good fundraisers: our "tool" did work! He forgot to mention that in response to the issues we raised, Natalie donated \$1000 to the National Minority AIDS Council...

Some of us were there at the hotel during the round table. There was another meeting going on at the same time to build a black AIDS conference... This building committee seemed to be to busy building a real black folks conference to remember the roundtable.

I find it interesting that the issues stated in the letter were not addressed in BLK, only a selective few that were complied and responded to by organizers of the conference... Like why did Teresa Brown not get any recognition for her dedicated work with PWAs of color at Dignity House? Why was there no outreach campaign done in the local bars and clubs of the black lesbian and gay community to get people to that conference? Why were women's issues as well as the issues of the working class and poor people not addressed? I could go on and on.

It's your choice to deal with the real issues or not. I understand how we become divided. We live under a constant seige of racism, homophobia, divide and conquer and sexism. Many of us don't have the luxury of untained thought or decision. Our very existence in this country is in response to the brutality of our people. Which can become crazy making and confuse us even when we have good intentions...

Even though I totally support and participated in the creation of the letter disseminated by BLGHJ, I never passed out one letter. Yet my name appears throughout BLK as the one who circulated the letter... I was walking around the conference getting signatures for the AIDS Bill of Rights petition. That was my job. I handed out no letters.

Another misnomer was the implication that Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice was a newly formed organization as if we were instantly formed only to disrupt the conference. Honey, please! The organization was founded in May of 1988...

My last comment will be in response to the alleged



work exchange program "allowing people to volunteer their time in lieu of paying the registration fee" and the "conference to turn away no one." First of all how is anyone supposed to benefit from something that they have no idea about. This was not in any of the literature I saw and until the last minute, and I saw nothing on the conference at all at the local black lesbian and gay clubs here in Los Angeles.

Cleo Manago  
Organizer, BLGHJ  
Los Angeles, California

**Blk Mail** should be addressed to **BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.** Letters to the Editor should include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. Names will be withheld on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.

# BLK

Number 5, April 1989

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# Oh, Lorde!

## *Black student group hosts noted black lesbian feminist at UCLA*

By Chi Hughes

In an unprecedented event in the annals of UCLA, the Center for Afro-American Studies hosted a reading by Audre Lorde, noted black lesbian feminist poet. Lorde, author of over a dozen books, shared five poems from numerous works and fielded questions from the group of approximately 40 women, stuffed into a classroom in Haines Hall.

"So I cannot recall the words of my first poem. But I remember a promise I made my pen. Never to leave it lying in somebody else's blood." These reflective lines closed the first poem of the reading.

Speaking from the particulars of who she is: black woman, lesbian, feminist, mother of two children, daughter of Grenadian immigrants, educator, cancer survivor and activist, Lorde interspersed (between poems) compelling commentary on issues ranging from the empowerment of African American women, to the inclusion of black males in the black feminist movement, to the rising tide of domestic violence in St. Croix, where she currently lives.

Much of Lorde's literary work seeks to define, identify,

clarify and even expand the issues specifically confronting black women of the Diaspora. Yet in person she goes beyond the literary, to the literal. "I am a black lesbian, feminist, warrior, poet, mother doing my work. And the most important and urgent of my work is being here asking each one of you 'how are you doing yours.'"

"My black sisters, wherever you find yourselves, it is urgent that you begin to use yourselves. Terrible things are being done in our name. We are part of both the national community of women of African descent, we are part of the Diaspora and the power that we have that is not being used, is being used against us," cautioned Lorde.

She is equally as vocal and vigilant in the fight for the continual inclusion and acknowledgement of the many contributions black lesbians and gay men have made to society and more specifically the black community. In "Learning from the 60s," she writes, "The move to render the presence of lesbians and gay men invisible in the intricate fabric of black existence and survival is a move which contributes to the fragmentation and weakness in the black community."

The perfect merging of these two identities (black/lesbian) in her biomythography, *Zami: A New Spelling Of My Name*. Here Lorde pays homage to the women who have helped shape her life and also provides a vivid firsthand account of her development through Harlem, Catholic school, West Indian parents, an abortion, Stamford, lesbian etiquette in the 50s, becoming a poet, Mexico and Carriacou. In the epilogue to *Zami* Lorde concludes, "Their names, selves, faces feed me like corn before labor. I live each of them as a piece of me, and I choose these words with the same grave concern with which I choose to push speech into poetry, the mattering core, the forward visions of all our lives."

"Once home was a long way off, a place I had never been to but knew out of my mother's mouth. I only discovered its latitudes when Carriacou was no longer my home."

"There it is said that the desire to lie with other women is a drive from the mother's blood."

The crux of Lorde's presentation on March 17 was the importance of women moving towards action resulting in empowerment and coalition building. Acknowledging the presumed differences of the women seated before her Lorde offered, "What do you have in common besides the power that maybe all of you are not using? We don't have to become each other in order to work together."

With a career of activism spanning over two decades, several of Lorde's books include speeches and essays delivered during this period. Her essay "Apartheid USA" briefly chronicles the atrocities leading to apartheid in South Africa, while drawing striking parallels to the treatment of blacks in America. Currently Lorde works



Audre Lorde



closely with SISA—Sisters in Support of Sisters in South Africa.

"I work with a group, which is one of the ways I try to put into practice the things I say, I believe," says Lorde (one of six founding mothers of SISA). The purpose of SISA is twofold: "continuing education on what is happening in South Africa and to share resources of the women of North America with our sisters in Soweto. We do fundraising. The money goes directly to Ellen Kuzwayo, the South African woman writer." The funds are then channeled to two groups in Soweto that hold literacy programs, start self-help groups and sewing groups.

Responding to a question about the mass media's recent treatment of the allegations surrounding Winnie Mandela, Lorde resoundingly replied, "The first thing that we need to do is suspect that kind of coverage. Something is going on and it's not about news." As an alternative she recommended seeking views from "authentic information," such as the *African National Congress News Briefings*.

"We are not in the position to decide what must occur in South Africa beyond the fact that black South Africa will be free and where do we intend to be, on what side?" Lorde urged people to "look at Winnie Mandela in terms of who she is and what she has lived through for the last 26 years."

At the age of fifty (in 1984) Audre Lorde was diagnosed with breast cancer. She has been very vocal about cancer and its treatment, and as with many of her other issues, has made it the subject of several works: *The Cancer Journals* and "A Burst of Light." Concerns about her health surfaced at the reading.

To the comfort of many she stated, "I am doing very well. You see me here doing my work. My work keeps me moving through my life and I am very pleased to be here to do it. I go to Germany in July for more treatment and follow a discipline." The discipline includes reducing stress on a cellular level and spending more time in St. Croix where she and a friend raise bees and are starting

a honey business.

The afternoon ended with a reception for Lorde including around 15 black women from the earlier reading. While most were reluctant to see the afternoon come to a close, Lorde in an empowering voice affirmed, "There is nothing mysterious about me. The lessons of survival we all carry inside us. There is a great deal of power in this room. I feel it right now. I am pleased to be a part of it. I hope we meet in the use of it."

By the end of the reception, women were speaking eagerly about forming a support group for black lesbians at UCLA. Lists were circulated for interested parties to sign-up. In the midst of all the excitement Lorde sat patiently, basking in the power generated through her work.

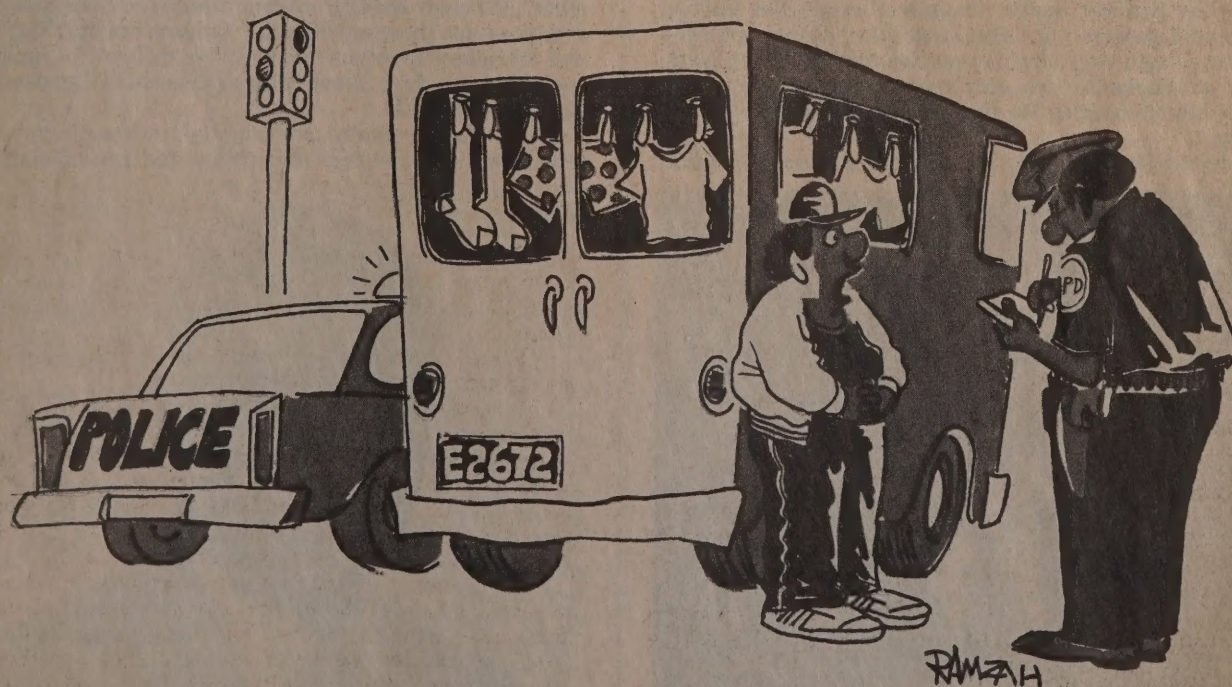
#### WORKS BY AUDRE LORDE

The First Cities  
Cables to Rage  
From A Land Where Other People Live  
New York Head Shop And Museum  
Coal  
Between Ourselves  
The Black Unicorn  
The Cancer Journals  
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Chosen Poems: Old And New  
Sister Outsider  
Our Dead Behind Us

#### RESOURCE INFORMATION

For more information about Sisterhood in Support of Sisters in South Africa, write: SISA, Box 24966 GBS, Christiansted, St. Croix 00824, U.S. Virgin Islands.

To subscribe to the African National Congress News Briefings, write: ANC, 801 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017.



"But, officer, Leonard and I are on our honeymoon."



# The King and the Jester

*Tom Bradley and Nate Holden vie for City Hall  
in Los Angeles*

**By L. Lloyd Jordan**

In 1987 Nate Holden ran for the 10th Los Angeles Councilmanic district, Tom Bradley's seat before he became L.A.'s mayor in 1973. Bradley's successor, David Cunningham, had quit in midterm. Few believed that Holden could win the seat without Bradley's support. But Bradley was actively campaigning for another candidate. Holden won.

In 1988 Nate Holden is again trying to win an office occupied by its first black incumbent while Bradley actively campaigns for someone else—himself. Once again, few believe Holden can win. But Holden always runs as a dark horse, winning in the stretch when the overconfident frontrunner expects to cruise through the last lap.

No one is sure if Holden is running for mayor because he believes he can win, or to spite Tom Bradley. Holden says that he is doing it because someone ought to, and no one else has the nerve. He says he wants to raise the issues that only really get addressed in a contested election. Issues such as L.A.'s deteriorating quality of life, proliferating violent crime, traffic congestion, festering poverty among blacks and immigrants, misplaced development and lack of affordable housing.

The Mayor's critics say, and Bradley does not deny, that he is relentlessly popular, credited by the people with much of the good and blamed for little of the bad in the City. Bradley insists (usually through his nimble-tongued deputy mayor, Mike Gage) that he has launched visible, if not very effective sorties against these leviathan problems. Holden may raise, but polls say voters won't blame Bradley for the intractable issues of urban living.

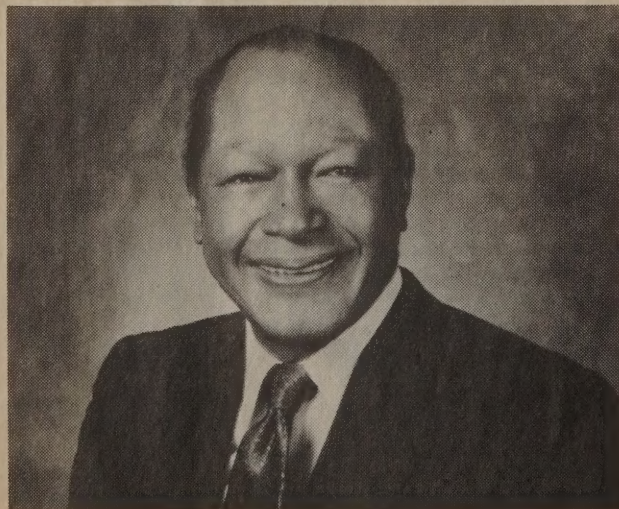
But neither candidate is raising or taking responsibility

for issues of most concern to lesbians and gays of color. Councilman Mike Woo's Task Force on Family Diversity recommended nearly a year ago that the City legally recognize "domestic partnerships"—so-called "gay marriages"—for unmarried cohabiting couples who "share the common necessities of life." So far, the Mayor has voiced general support of, but taken no action to implement, the report's recommendations, other than to solicit feedback from City agencies. West Hollywood already allows City registration of domestic partnerships. Bradley is expected to endorse a more modest plan permitting sick and bereavement leave for domestic partners of civil servants.

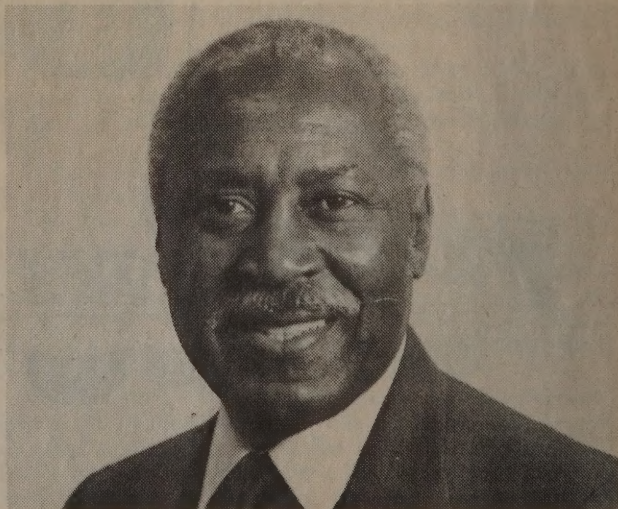
The Mayor has publicly honored but never taken a vigorous stand in support of the heroic work of Fairfax High teacher Virginia Uribe, whose Project 10 counseling program for lesbian and gay youth has been targeted for elimination by Traditional Family advocates. The report also called for establishment of a task force on Gay and Lesbian Family Violence, which Bradley has not yet directed the city attorney to set up.

On the other hand, over the years Bradley has been consistently supportive of the rights of lesbians, gays and HIV-positives to live free from discrimination. These rights have been secured by city law during his term in office. Although Bradley seldom attends lesbian and gay events except those of white gay fundraisers and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, he delivered a rousing speech at the first Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference in 1988.

Mike Gage actively participated in meetings with lesbian and gay leaders and police and fire officials to



**Tom Bradley**



**Nate Holden**



reduce police harassment of Anglo gay bars in Silverlake last year, but blacks were invited into this process only as negotiations were concluded. Perhaps most significantly, none of the Mayor's few appointments of open lesbians and gays to city commissions or to his own staff have gone to African Americans or, indeed, to any minorities. Black gays have not had the Mayor's ear in the sense of being consulted about lesbian and gay issues. Anglo gays, especially the so-called "north of Franklin" set whose members frequently sit on gay fundraising boards, have enjoyed mayoral access, but have frequently been out of touch or at odds with black gay activists. If, however, this is indicative of Bradley's negligence, it has been compounded by that of black gay activists who have failed to cultivate a reciprocally beneficial relationship with Bradley.

In the war on AIDS, Bradley has been a dutiful foot soldier rather than an inspired general. Yet there is a full-time deputy city attorney assigned to handle AIDS discrimination cases, and a city AIDS co-ordinator who is currently being recruited who will answer directly to Gage. What is needed, however, is more ingenuity in ferreting out funding for PWA care, more assertive advocacy at the county, state and federal levels, and stronger affirmation of the City's responsibility to care for and respect those who are HIV infected.

Nate Holden, perennial candidate, has a lengthy political history but a spotty career. In the last two decades, he has run for office eight times, winning only twice. First elected to the State Senate in 1974, he promptly ran for Congress, forfeiting his senate seat after a single term and losing the congressional seat to Julian Dixon. Most of the time since then he has been a deputy for County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, an Anglo politician much-respected in the black community.

If Bradley is sometimes described by friends and foes alike as a lackluster liberal, Holden is often seen as a pandering populist. He has a knack for figuring out what people most dislike in his opponents, fanning their anger, then marketing himself as exactly the opposite. Thus, to African Americans who believe that Bradley is intimidated by his white supporters and neglectful of black needs, Holden portrays himself as the savior of South Central. To the homeless and over-mortgaged he promises affordable housing and has successfully challenged Bradley's credibility on the issue. To Anglos and blacks he rails against foreign competition for markets, real estate and jobs. If Bradley is regarded as paralyzed by caution, Holden is known to shoot from the hip—or the lip, and sometimes makes statements or recommendations which seem poorly thought out.

He obtained the endorsement of the Black Gay Men's Coalition (BGM/C) for Human Rights in his 1987 councilmanic campaign, partially because he addressed the group in person, while his opponent sent the black gay, but white-looking and little-known Bevan Dufty. Since then, Ron Grayson, former chair of BGM/C, who actively campaigned for Holden's election, and others have expressed dismay at Holden's lack of responsiveness to black gay concerns. Holden was absent last October when City Council overwhelmingly passed the Family Diversity Task Force resolution establishing the City's domestic partnership policy for city employees.

When a motion was sponsored in Council by gay activists to oppose last year's Proposition 96, Holden supported a counter-motion to *endorse* the measure on the November ballot. To some black gays, Prop 96 was more invidious than the more infamous Prop 102, because it authorized police officers to require HIV testing of arrested (but not yet convicted) persons. Since blacks are

stopped on the streets far more frequently than whites, and since the white gay community chose to focus their money and energy on defeating Prop 102 and virtually ignored Prop 96, black gay activists were appalled when none of the three black City Councilmen opposed the initiative. (It was later approved by California voters.) Moreover, Holden is reputed to have told a number of persons that he supported Prop 102, although he issued no formal endorsement of the measure.

Recently, Holden proposed that the dilapidated and virtually abandoned Queen of Angels Hospital be converted by the City into an AIDS facility. This idea was opposed by most AIDS activists because the hospital would be expensive to renovate and operate, and runs counter to the growing belief that PWA hospices should be small and dispersed among local communities. Councilwoman Gloria Molina openly criticized Holden for having held up City funding for a group home for gay and lesbian youths, most of whom are black [BLK, February 1989]. Although Holden subsequently authorized the funding, pleas from gay activists and from several politicians had previously failed to dissuade Holden from his opposition, based, he claimed, on his belief that the facility's neighbors would resent the home.

Holden is generally praised for his forthright and innovative advocacy on behalf of African Americans. But he does not have a reputation for extending this concern to the needs of other discriminated against minorities, particularly if he perceives them or their issues as inimicable to the interests of blacks.

From the African American perspective, Holden's candidacy may be salutary because it gives dissatisfied blacks an opportunity to send a message to their mayor without repudiating black leadership. It may put needed pressure on Bradley to increase accessibility and responsiveness to African American concerns in his next term. But it has served a different purpose for Bradley's non-black enemies. This race has witnessed the ironic phenomenon of grassroots black activist Holden garnering the endorsements of conservative ex-Mayor Sam Yorty and of the Policemen's League.

The local Anglo press, led by the *Los Angeles Times* and, especially, the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, have escalated Holden's challenge to Bradley into a prize fight. These media have given Holden far more positive press and Bradley far more negative press than Holden's campaign could ever have afforded to purchase. They are using Holden's candidacy to subject Bradley's person and record as mayor to a glaring, microscopic scrutiny which many blacks find offensive.

Unlike black mayors in other major cities, Bradley has not been the subject of serious scandal, nor the object of accusations of incompetence, nor a lightning rod for racial hostility or polarization. Although Los Angeles has accommodated incredible growth and become one of the world's great cosmopolises during Bradley's tenure, the adverse impacts of these changes have brought down upon him the wrath of Westside environmentalists, Valley suburbanites, xenophobes and, apparently, the major print media. Although none of these disaffected constituencies seriously contemplate Holden as an alternative to Bradley, the dailies seem bent on publicly venting their frustration with the electorate's unwillingness to blame the Mayor for the side effects of prosperity. Were it not for this factor in the April 11 election, not only would Bradley have a cakewalk back into office, as he is, in fact, expected to do, but it would appear to be election by acclamation. For those who do not wish to give Bradley that kind of mandate, Nate Holden may be a useful spoiler. It is a role he doesn't mind playing at all.



# Black/White Photography

*Robert Mapplethorpe, noted for photos of black men,  
dies of AIDS in Boston*

**By Jarvis D. Moore**



*Phillip. Photo by and © Robert Mapplethorpe.*



Avant garde photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, considered among the most prominent artists in his field, died at age 42 on Thursday March 9, of AIDS-related complications in Deaconess Hospital in Boston. He had waged a public battle with AIDS for more than a year, and was involved in AIDS related activism.

Mapplethorpe's photographs gained notoriety because of their eroticism and subject matter. His work included exceptional still life photographs of flowers, phonograph album covers, fashion models, and portraits of celebrities, but explicit scenes of sadomasochistic homosexuality, and people with AIDS were other subjects. Although he was white, one of his specialties was photographs of nude black men. Born in 1946, and raised in Floral Park, New York, he took to Manhattan's 42nd Street in the 1960s and became fascinated with its pornography theatres and bookstores.

In 1962, he enrolled at Pratt Institute, one of New York's top art schools, meandering through the curriculum in eight years. There he met rock musician and poetess Patti Smith, who became his first portrait subject and lover. When the mid-1970s gave rise to the New Wave rock 'n' roll, Mapplethorpe created album covers for Smith and the group, Television. Mapplethorpe credits Smith for emboldening him to let homosexuality in his photographic images emerge.

In the mid-1970s, Mapplethorpe became staff photographer for Andy Warhol's magazine, *Interview*, meeting and photographing many celebrities such as Arnold Schwarzenegger, David Hockney, and Gregory Hines. In 1972, he met wealthy photograph collector Sam Wagstaff, and eventually they became lovers. Wagstaff died of AIDS in 1987, and left his estate of \$7 million to Mapplethorpe. However, Mapplethorpe was diagnosed as having AIDS by that time. He did not stop taking photographs.

Susan Arthur of the Robert Miller Gallery in New York which represented the artist said that Mapplethorpe was about to publish two new books of his work. "His pictures now were about what he was experiencing. That he was fighting dying makes them that much more timely in this age of AIDS," said Arthur.

Both the Whitney Museum in New York, and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia organized separate retrospectives in 1988. The Philadelphia show, *The Perfect Moment*, recently embarked on a five-city American tour. Currently in Chicago, the show travels next to Berkeley, California; then Washington D.C.; Hartford, Connecticut; Cincinnati, Ohio; and ends in Boston, Massachusetts in 1990.

Although he was white, Mapplethorpe's work is of special interest to a significant part of the black gay male community because his numerous, sensitive, and coolly erotic photographs of athletic, intriguing, and physically elegant black men are artistically breathtaking. "My work is about order. I am a perfectionist." Mapplethorpe said about his austere, very unspontaneous work.

Many of Mapplethorpe's photographs of black men are collected in *Black Book*, published in 1986 by St. Martin's Press. His photographs are not mere posings of tired stereotypes of what a typical American white man thinks is interesting about a black man. The photographs go beyond that into a realm of sensitive exploration and delineation. His work is unflinchingly "honest," verging on hyper reality. The range of photographs acknowledges that black men are not all alike. Not everyone is super-endowed as the myth would have us believe, but those that are so endowed are not ashamed of it. Most straight white American males would not have been able to take such photographs because they see black men as symbolic sexual and economic rivals, not as subjects for artis-

tic exploration. Thus, most white artists have made caricatures of black male subjects. Mapplethorpe's work can be compared in its natural look and investigation to such white painters as Rubens and Winslow Homer; and to documentary photographer Margaret Bourke-White.

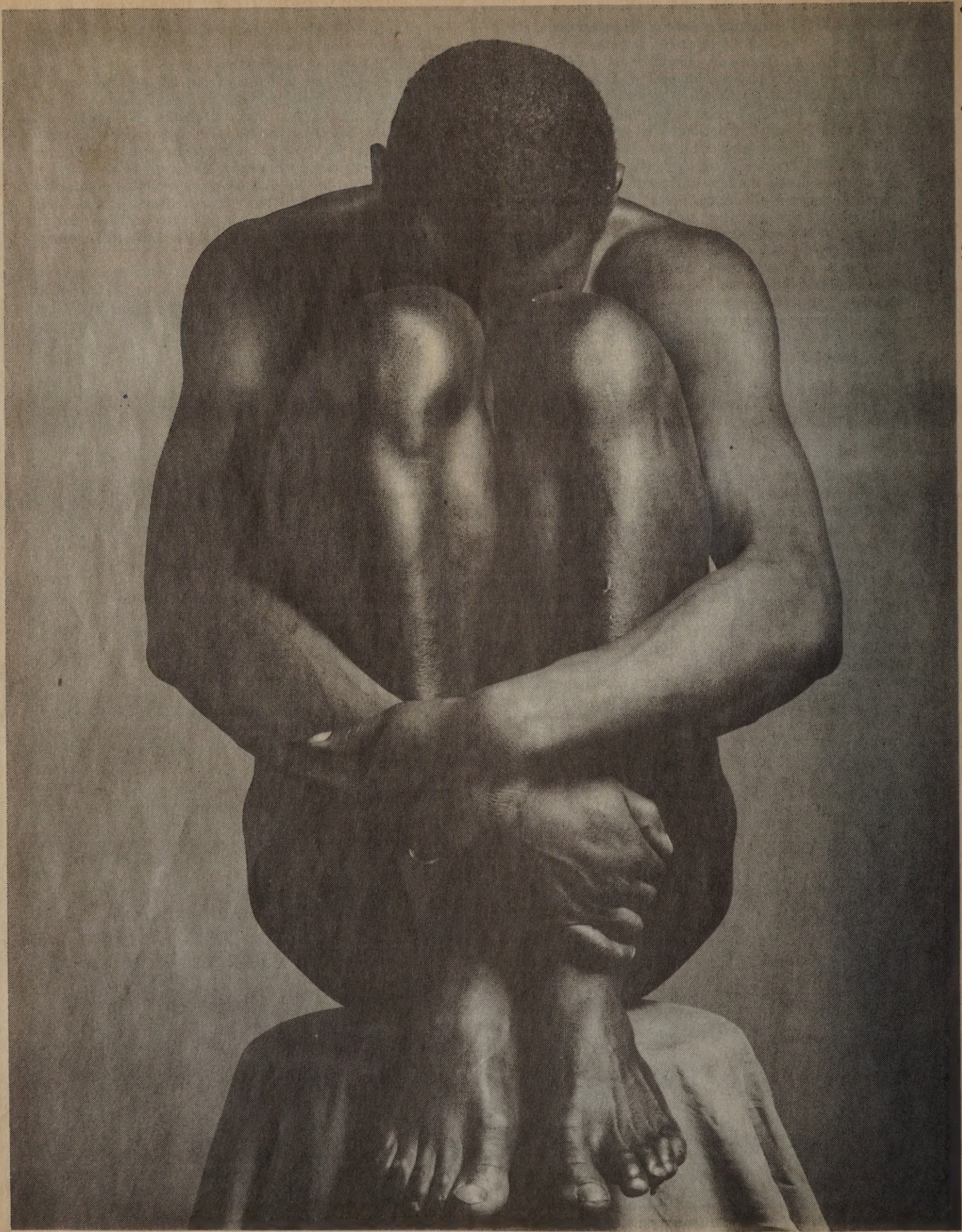
Most critics agree that Mapplethorpe broke new ground with his photographs, and made black men legitimate subjects for fine art photographs, and by extension, galleries and museums. Bruce Guenther, chief curator of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art, explains why patrons are fascinated with Mapplethorpe's black male nudes: "Polite, middle-class people aren't allowed to look at black men. Mapplethorpe crosses that taboo and allows us to look."

Would Mapplethorpe have been allowed to achieve his fame in the established art world if he had featured his black male nudes throughout his career? Probably Mapplethorpe was only able to do this after he had established his career credibility with his previous work. And, since Mapplethorpe was white, he was able to lift the veil allowing whites to look at beautiful people in ways that the art establishment would not have taken seriously from black photographers. This duplicitous pattern is old news to us, but do not let that preclude you from viewing and enjoying his work. His photographs of muscular, enigmatic, clothed and naked black men are sensual, but not pornographic, and it is hard and subjective to explain why. Most pornography seems concerned only with picturing genitals and an actual sex act. Mapplethorpe went beyond to evoke the erotic via the perfection of his image. Art critic Bruce Chatwin of the *San Francisco Examiner* says, "his eye is like that of a sculptor in search of an ideal."

"Mapplethorpe was a classicist at heart," says art critic Vince Aletti of New York's *Village Voice*, yet he used a modern miminialist sensitivity in his lean, spare, carefully arranged compositions. This seeming contradiction may explain why some people feel uncomfortable about, yet are intrigued by and enjoy his willful, arbitrary, and non-conventional work. These days, the word "classical" may conjure up images of Greek and Roman columns, arches, and/or overdecorated French froufrou. But the sense of "classical" that applies to Mapplethorpe is timeless and culture transcendent. It involves straight ahead axial symmetry, or dramatic asymmetry, strong awareness of form, and the use of one or two colors. Mapplethorpe chose to work predominantly in the black and white medium which channels a viewer's attention to appreciate formal qualities of texture, such as muscles, hair, sweat, eyes, and shadows. Seldom did he use trick photo effects or novel techniques. Indeed, his photographs could have been made 30 years ago, and will still look good without condensation 30 or more years from now. They are "classic."

*Black Book* has a poignant point. Mapplethorpe lamented in an interview that over half of the men pictured in the book had died from AIDS. Mapplethorpe has now joined them. The book is dedicated to a black man, pictured at the front, and one wonders what was the relationship between Mapplethorpe and this man? Is he now dead, too? Also, *Black Book* has a moving poetic forward written by the noted black playwright, Ntozake Shange (who wrote *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When The Rainbow Is Not Enough*). Her analysis and praise of Mapplethorpe is penetrating, sympathetic, and forms a perfect prelude for the photographs. Mapplethorpe did not distance himself from what he photographed. Although this comment was specifically about his S & M photographs, he said, "I've done everything I show in my photographs...[they] are like a







diary..." Love and concern for his models is shown, as well as the breeziness of the model who was a one-night-stand. Some of the models look very familiar, like guys just off the street, and one or two of the models have gone on to become porno video stars. Some of the models look like statues. Critic Jeff Zurlinden of Los Angeles's *Frontiers* said of one model, "...he poses as a single beautiful object with bulging, well-defined muscles. He is so perfect yet so distant that the viewer longs to touch his skin to make it real."

Mapplethorpe's intent with his bracing photographs was full of contradictions. He shocked some audiences, yet his photographs neither glamorized nor played down the sexual extent of his work. His intent was never to only just shock, but to make the shocking beautiful. He fitted the most incongruous things into a singular world view, and saw nothing unusual about it. "I just want to be written about as a normal artist," Mapplethorpe once told *American Photographer* magazine. "I never wanted to be a photographer," he said. "It was sort of a mistake really. I only wanted to make a statement and photography ended up being the vehicle."

Mapplethorpe's work was commercially successful. In 1987, his platinum-on-linen prints produced in single editions, sold for \$15,000 each. His photographs have been in numerous exhibits and are part of many museum

collections. However, two shows exclusively focused on his black men: *The Black Male Image* at the Harlem Exhibition Space in 1982, and *Black Males* at the Galleria II Ponte in Rome, also in 1982. His work can also be found in some 20 books.

Peter Schjeldahl, art critic for the New York weekly, *7 Days*, wrote "It's time to say that Robert Mapplethorpe was the greatest pure studio photographer of our time and one of the most important photographers of all time. He has altered the common meanings of his medium. He has redefined the boundaries of public taste."

The American art world has lost a great talent, at the height of his career. The genre of black male photography is richer because of him.

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#### LEONARD SIMON ANALYZES ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE

Photographers were the pioneers of the new homosexual eroticism. Robert Mapplethorpe, known for his hard-edged, sadomasochistic, gay-oriented photography is particularly controversial. With a beguiling naturalness, his photographs show the world in which he was involved. His subject matter was important to him personally ("I've done everything I show in my photographs," he once told an interviewer), and in the world of photography, startlingly new. His was not the objective view of the camera, but the active and subjective mood of the participant.

The profession of the artist has traditionally offered the homosexual and outlet for his sensitivity, a place where, however limited, some expression of his sexuality can be made without fear of ridicule or dismissal—a relatively safe community within which some sort of identity could be established. To establish such an identity, the artist must highlight two significant points particularly relevant

to the visual artists.

The first is how, and to what extent, the artist's own awareness of himself as homosexual has influenced his work. The second is how, given the cultural modes and social attitudes of society, artists have achieved both a self-representation and questioning of their sexuality. Such self-representation both reflects and contributes to a growing awareness of the gay identity in contemporary society.

Expression of love (such as those found in Michelangelo's poetry for other men) were well known, and, if made public, condemned. All art builds upon previous art, whether it is by tearing down or developing it. Today, artists who are homosexual have a wide number of responses. Some want to celebrate their homosexuality, some use it to comment on the world, others use it to subvert existing meanings of images, ideas and notions.

When in the 1970s Mapplethorpe moved into that notorious hang-out of artists, the Chelsea Hotel in New York, he became in-

involved in the life around it. Early photo-montage and collage included images from pornographic gay sex magazines and later incorporated his own images. These show sadomasochistic scenes of unflinching honesty, as well as portraits of friends and studies of flawless flowers.

With great bravura, Mapplethorpe became the great sexual showman; he photographed himself with a whip butt up his ass and his friends pressing another in his mouth. With an almost dispassionate sense of observation, he posed his models in carefully arranged compositions. His particular aesthetic involves crystal clarity which has nothing to do with the snapshot and flash gun technique of commercial pornography. Thus the most extreme S & M scenes involving chains, straps and black leather, men with trussed genitals, bound and gagged, soon take on a "natural" quality which can be objectively studied even if some people find the subject matter overwhelming.

Right from the start the photographs were "honest," seeking neither to glamourize nor play down the physical and sexual extent of the work. Mapplethorpe's work has a shocking quality both for his choice of subject matter and the fact that the photograph is intrinsically more realistic than painting. Pornography, always (and often falsely) disassociated from the "erotic," fascinated Mapplethorpe, who wanted to remove the boredom of commercial pornography and make pictures which while still erotically charged could be artistically beautiful.

Speaking of another photographer, Dorothea Lange said, "...Every image he sees, every photograph he takes, becomes in a sense a self-portrait. The portrait is made more meaningful by intimacy—an intimacy shared not only by the photographer with his subject but by the audience." It's a comment that suits Robert Mapplethorpe perfectly.

*Leonard Simon, Ph.D., is an art critic and historian.*



# Blk Community News

## Bean Steps Down as Minority AIDS Project Head to Pursue Church Duties; Board Selects Gil Gerald

By Mark Haile and Alan Bell

LOS ANGELES—Rev. Carl Bean surprised the gay community recently by announcing that he would step down as executive director of the Minority AIDS Project. He will maintain his post as pastor of Unity Fellowship Church, however, of which the MAP is an outreach program.

Rev. Bean will be replaced by Trinidad-born Gilberto Gerald who is moving from the East Coast to manage the celebrated community-based AIDS organization.

The rapid growth of Unity Fellowship Church, as well as the expansion of the MAP, both founded by Rev. Bean, prompted the decision, the cleric said. He wants to devote more of his time to the needs of his flourishing congregation.

"The members of my church have been more than kind and understanding about the amount of time I've devoted to AIDS, AIDS ministry and AIDS education in the black and Latino communities," said Rev. Bean. "However, because of the many demands that go with pastoring a flock, there are other needs within my church body that require love and care in addition to those surrounding AIDS."

One of the new black gay activists who has been able to support himself as a full-time professional advocate for black and gay causes, Gerald comes to the MAP with a background both as an activist and as an executive. Mostly recently, he was director of minority affairs for the National AIDS Network in Washington, D.C.

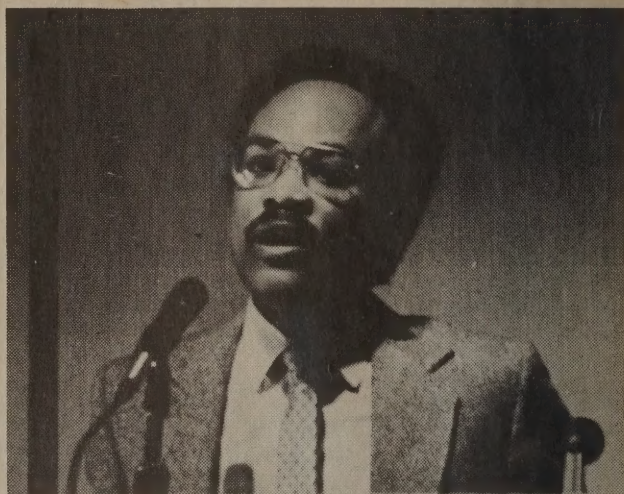
Gerald was the executive director and principal fundraiser of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays from 1983 to 1986. He is a former member of the board of directors of both the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the Gay Rights National Lobby. In 1984, he served as a Jesse Jackson convention delegate and gay liaison to the Jackson campaign. He is an architect by training.

"Gil Gerald is a friend, a brother and a staunch supporter of human rights for everyone," said Rev. Bean. "He sat at the helm of NCBLG, much of the time for no salary, but with a determination that the organization would survive. He, along with myself and others, was also one of the founding members of the National Minority AIDS Council. I know him, I know his struggles and I know his dedication. I am extremely confident, along with the board, that Gil is the right person for the job."

Since moving into quarters on Jefferson Blvd. that house both MAP and the church, the building has become the most visible symbol of the black lesbian and gay community in Los Angeles. It is also the busiest.

Rev. Bean also announced that, with overflow Sunday morning crowds, Unity Fellowship Church is searching for separate, larger quarters.

While the growth is welcome, according to former Minority AIDS Project board member Bobby Smith, it came quicker than expected. No one anticipated the church to grow so rapidly, he says. Although the church sanctuary was recently remodelled and enlarged, the



Gilberto Gerald

new space has already been swallowed up by new arrivals, many of whom bring their families as well.

A real estate agent has begun scouting South Central Los Angeles for an appropriate site that will meet parking and zoning requirements, as well as the special requirements of the Unity Fellowship congregation and community organizations that use church facilities.

MAP is expected to remain at its present Jefferson Blvd. location.

The Minority AIDS Project began in 1985. It is now internationally respected as one of the foremost and most innovative models for providing community based AIDS services.

## Tap Craig Harris for New York AIDS Post

NEW YORK—Craig Harris joined the Education Department of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) as their coordinator of AIDS prevention programs it was announced last month by executive director Richard Dunne. Harris has worked as a program consultant on GMHC's risk reduction efforts targeting the black community.

His previous professional experience includes appointments at Associate Consultants, Inc. and Koba Associates, where he designed and implemented AIDS education programs.

Harris, who has also worked for the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, was recognized as an Outstanding Young Man of America in 1987. He was educated at Vassar College, Cambridge University and the New School for Social Research.



# Statistics Paint Grim Picture for Future of AIDS Cases Among African Americans in California

By Donald Wooten, Ph.D.

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—African Americans in California have been more deeply affected by the AIDS epidemic than any other racial or ethnic group in the State, according to a report in the March issue of *California AIDS Update*. The cumulative incidence of AIDS is 93 cases per 100,000 blacks, compared to 81 for whites, 34 for Hispanics, and 11 for Asians and others. Rates for these groups in the rest of the United States are: 76 cases per 100,000 for blacks, 21 for whites, 80 for Hispanics, and 6 for Asians and others.

The number of AIDS cases among African Americans in California is increasing more rapidly than among the other racial or ethnic groups. The number of cases reported for blacks in 1988 increased by 46 percent over 1987, from 517 to 755. This is more than three times the increase for all other Californians. Through 1986, less than 9.5 percent of AIDS cases reported in this state were black. In 1987 this proportion rose to 10.4 percent, and since January 1988 it has exceeded 13 percent. These increases are significant, especially considering that blacks constitute only 7.7 percent of the State's population.

An article published in the *California AIDS Update* (July 1988) showed that the number of AIDS cases with intravenous drug use (IVDU) as primary risk was increasing at a significantly faster rate than for other groups, and that the number of cases among blacks with this risk was growing faster than other groups. Data collected through December 31, 1988 confirms the continuation of this trend: 13 percent of all AIDS cases are among African Americans have IVDU as their mode of transmission. This is five times the 2.6 percent found among non-blacks. Through 1986, 8 percent of the AIDS cases among blacks were infected because of IVDU. In 1987 the proportion rose to 1 percent, and, subsequently, to 18.5 percent. In California 38 percent of all IVDU AIDS cases are black.

Females constitute 6.9 percent of the African Americans with AIDS in California. This is nearly three times the proportion for females among all other racial or ethnic groups. Nearly one-third of these black women contracted AIDS through heterosexual contact, primarily with IVDU partners. This proportion approaches 40 percent for young black women (ages 13-29) with AIDS. IVDU by the women themselves accounts for an even larger portion of black women with AIDS: 46 percent of those over 30 years of age contracted AIDS by IVDU, while 42 percent of younger black women had this as the primary risk.

## Regional Patterns

Looking at the cumulative incidence of AIDS among African Americans in California by region, only San Francisco exceeds the statewide average of 92.8 cases per 100,000 black residence, a rate equaled by Los Angeles County. County-specific incidence is provided for the ten counties with the highest cumulative incidence and with at least ten AIDS cases reported among black residence.

"Gay/Bisexual" is by far the most commonly cited risk category for reported AIDS cases among African Americans in California. Over 82 percent of AIDS cases reported in San Francisco blacks and 73 percent of blacks with AIDS elsewhere in the State were at risk because of homosexual contact. Among non-blacks, over 90 percent

are in the gay/bisexual risk groups.

In the Rural Areas of California, over a quarter of the 111 blacks with AIDS were infected with the AIDS virus due to IVDU. Similarly, the Southern Urban Areas have reported over 22 percent of all blacks with AIDS as having IVDU as their mode of transmission. In both of these regions, the IVDU portion of new diagnosed cases has been rising: in the Rural Areas, 32 percent of black cases diagnosed in 1988 were IVDU, while the rate in the South Urban Areas was 30 percent.

Los Angeles County reported an increase in the portion of IV drug users among African Americans with AIDS from 8.4 percent of the cases diagnosed through 1987, to 13.7 percent of the cases diagnosed in 1988. This is the lowest share found in the five regions analyzed. In the Other Bay Area region, the IVDU portion of the blacks diagnosed with AIDS during the same period increased from 12.1 percent to 19.7 percent.

## AIDS among Blacks through 1991

The statewide average rate of increase during 1989-91 is estimated at 59 percent per annum. The cumulative incidence of AIDS in California African Americans during this period is projected to be 304 per 100,000 projected black population. These projections were derived using the empirical modeling method described in the projections article referred to above.

The projected rate of increase for blacks with AIDS is the highest in the South Urban Areas, where it is expected to double in both 1989-90 and 1990-91. Cumulative incidence for this regions expected to rise to 300 cases per 100,000 black residents by December 1991, surpassing the projected rates for both the Other Bay Area and Los Angeles County. It is exceeded only by San Francisco's projected rate of 1,136 per 100,000.

Of the five geographic regions, the Rural Areas region is projected to have the second most rapid rate of increase in AIDS among African Americans in 1989-91. However, with 219 projected AIDS cases per 100,000 blacks, this region will continue to have the lowest cumulative incidence rate.

Currently, Los Angeles County has roughly half of the State's total black population and half of all the State's AIDS cases among blacks. It is projected to have a 43 percent increase in the number of cases that will be diagnosed from 1987 through 1991. Because of more rapid increases expected in other regions, Los Angeles County's share of black AIDS cases in the State is expected to drop to 42 percent.

Using the same methodology, we also projected the statewide incidence of IVDU AIDS cases among African Americans. We estimate that 248 IVDU cases will occur in 1989, 445 in 1990, and 774 in 1991. Needle sharing will be the primary mode of transmission for one out of every three AIDS cases diagnosed among California blacks in 1990-91.

Our projections indicate that approximately 22 percent of all the AIDS cases that will be diagnosed in California during 1991 will be among blacks. Currently blacks account of 1 percent of all the case reported in the State. Clearly AIDS among blacks is becoming an increasingly serious problem. The grimness of this picture underscores the need for further intensification of efforts prevent the spread of HIV among African Americans in California.



# Ivy Young Picked to Head NGLTF's Family Project

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Feminist and African American activist Ivy Young has been selected by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to head the only national organizing project on behalf of lesbian and gay families. She becomes project director on May 1.

The Lesbian and Gay Families Project was formed through a unique collaboration between the D.C.-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). NCLR was formerly known as the Lesbian Rights Project.

"As we stand at the edge of the 21st century, it is untenable that a very small but, vociferous, segment of our nation's population still has the ability to make its definition of family one that must be adhered to by millions by citizens," said Young. "It is the non-traditional family which has become traditional. As lesbians and gay men who often bear the brunt of outmoded social construction, we must be in the vanguard of redefining what family is and of protecting the right of all those who don't fit into obsolete categories."

The Lesbian and Gay Families Project will educate, advocate, and organize for full societal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships and for the protection of lesbian and gay families. The Families Project will confront barriers facing lesbian and gay partners and parents and will tackle issues such as securing equal benefits for gay and lesbian partners; fair and equal treatment for gay and lesbian partners in custody, visitation and co-parenting arrangements; passage of non-discrimination laws regarding adoption, foster care, and artificial insemination; securing survivors rights and the right to be involved in medical decisions and treatment for our loved ones.

"We are very excited and pleased to welcome Ivy Young to the NGLTF staff," said Jeffrey Levi, NGLTF executive director. "She brings to our staff excellent organizing and communications skills. Young also brings a sophisticated political analysis of the issues facing the gay and lesbian movement and will steer the Lesbian and Gay Families Project in broad and innovative directions."

Young joins the task force with a strong background in media, grassroots organizing, and politics. She is the former general manager of WWOZ-FM in New Orleans and served as the director of public affairs for WBAI-FM in New York City from 1986 to 1988. Young was editor and anchor of daily newscasts at WHUR-FM in Washington, D.C. from 1978-1982. She was communications director for The Center for Black Education Washington from 1969-1973.

Young's political organizing work involved her in the 1988 Presidential election campaign during which she helped organize Lesbians and Gays for Jesse Jackson in New York City. She was editor of Pacifica Radio's coverage of the Democratic National Convention in July 1988. In October of 1987, she served as a consultant to organizers of the People of Color Stage (morning rally) of the National March on Washington For Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Young also has extensive grassroots organizing experience in the women's and political and cultural movements. From 1982-1985, Young was a staff member of Roadwork, Inc., the D.C.-based non-profit women's culture production company. In 1984 and 1985, she was the producer of Sisterfire, Roadwork's multi-cultural, open-air festival of women in the arts held annually in Washington, D.C. She has worked with the program in Black

American Culture at the Smithsonian Institution, the National Conference for Women in Radio, and served as a U.S. Delegate to the Third International Festival of New Song held in Ecuador in 1985.

NCLR executive director Roberta Archetnberg said, "We are delighted that Ivy Young will lead the Lesbian and Gay Families Project. Our families across the country are in crisis, and this project is of vital importance. Young's vast experience in media, coalition building and organizing ensures that the urgent needs of our gay and lesbian families will be very well served."

Levi and Achtenberg also noted the unique partnership of their organization in creating this project. "This is the first time two national groups have cooperated so closely in the launching of a major national educational and organizing project," observed Levi. "The expertise NCLR has built up in the legal research arena will complement NGLTF and Young's expertise in the political and organizing arena to forge a project whose impact will be felt for many years."

## N.J. Students Push for Black, Gay Demands

PRINCETON (UPI)—Dozens of Princeton University students staged a sit-in at the administration building last month, demanding a greater voice in the affairs of the Ivy League university.

The students, originally numbering about 125, marched into the faculty room of historic Nassau Hall about 4 p.m., and vowed to remain until President Harold Shapiro agreed to meet with them and discuss their demands.

About 90 of the students left the building after meeting with Eugene Lowe, dean of students, and it was later decided that the smaller group would remain inside for the overnight vigil.

"We are taking direct action because all other administrative channels have led to bureaucratic deadends, and the disempowerment of students," a statement issued by the ad hoc group said.

Lowe refused to discuss the student's demands. He told the group police would not be used for force them from the building, but advised them they could face university sanctions if they remained. Lowe said the school will reappraise the situation Thursday morning.

The students represented groups including Students for Social Responsibility, the Organization for Black Unity, the Third World Center, the Women's Center, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, the Coalition Against Homophobia and the Chicano Caucus.

The group issued a list of nine demands calling for a greater role in selection of the dean of students, a student-elected member of the board of trustees, greater access to Shapiro and other administrators and limitations on business and government recruiters who discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The students also want the option of directing their student activity fees, nine semesters of financial aid for for students who need extra time to graduate and the school's pledge to assume security costs for guest speakers.

The issue of costs of security for Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan led to the cancellation of his scheduled speech earlier this month.



# S.F. Health Pol Calls Needle Ex 'Genocide'

By Clarence Burns III

SAN FRANCISCO—At a recent San Francisco community forum, black County Health Commissioner Naomi Gray denounced the provision of hypodermic syringes for intravenous drug users (IVDUs) as virtual "genocide against black people." Prevention Point is a pilot program initiated by the County in the Tenderloin district to reduce the spread of AIDS by exchanging used needles turned in by IVDUs for sterile ones.

Gray contends that needle exchange programs are a dangerous step in the direction of legalizing addictive drugs. Since African Americans are IVDUs in higher proportions than whites, Gray believes that legalization will lead to more drug abuse—and thus to more family destruction and death—among blacks.

County health officials and AIDS activists supported the implementation of Prevention Point because studies have shown that in other cities where such programs exist, the rate of HIV infection among IVDUs is decreasing. Since women and children, particularly African Americans, primarily contract AIDS through use of contaminated syringes, it has been argued that the most effective method of preventing the spread of the disease among minorities is to reduce needle sharing.

"I was very depressed after listening to her," said longtime gay activist Brandy Moore, aide to Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. "We work so hard to reduce the impact of this disease on black people, then someone black tries to undo it."

The San Francisco program, and others like it, work on the assumption that if IVDUs do not have access to clean needles, they will use contaminated ones to continue their drug habit, infecting their sexual partners and children with AIDS in the process.

Gray and other opponents maintain that giving needles to addicts makes the government an accessory to the crime. Whether Gray believes that the government deliberately or callously instituted the program to allow increased addiction among people of color is unclear. But program supporters emphasize that only those who are already addicts are given sterile syringes when turning in used needles.

Former presidential candidate Jesse Jackson is among many black leaders who oppose decriminalization of drug use out of fear that the poor and minorities are most inclined to become IVDUs due to high socioeconomic stress. The affluent, they point out, have good incentives to avoid drug abuse, and can better afford to support their habits if they do become addicted.

## BWMT/SF Hosts Meet

SAN FRANCISCO—The San Francisco chapter of Black and White Men Together hosted the 1989 West Coast Regional Network the weekend of March 3-5, 1989. The meeting, which was held together with the Los Angeles chapter of BWMT, featured workshops on membership, leadership and fundraising.

Members of the Seattle chapter of BWMT, who had been expected to attend, were snowed in for the weekend.

In addition to the workshops, the group participated in a variety of social activities including entertainment provided by Peter Barclay, a pianist, vocalist and composer.

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# AIDS Project East Bay Becomes Independent Org

By Clarence Burns III

OAKLAND—AIDS Project East Bay (APEB), the largest black-run AIDS agency in northern California, became an independent agency in January and moves into new Oakland headquarters this month. Previously operating under Alameda County auspices, APEB has incorporated as a non-profit agency actively soliciting both government grants and private sector donations.

The move takes place under continuing controversy surrounding its relationship to Alameda County. In early March, executive director Larry Saxxon threatened to resign, publicly accusing County health officials of failing to address AIDS aggressively among minorities. This followed the much-publicized hiring of a professional "ethicist" to advise the County on responsible allocation of its limited health care resources.

Saxxon says that because members of APEB's predominantly black board, staff and PWA clientele urged him to stay on, he retracted his resignation, "to fight like hell for my job and for the provision of services to people of color in Alameda County, especially lesbians and gays." But recently he received a letter from Dave Kears, director of County Healthcare Agencies, denying the validity of Saxxon's complaints and alleging that his problems were due to interpersonal conflicts.

Saxxon does not deny that he has been involved in such conflicts. Brought aboard as a troubleshooter when the Project was a stepchild of Berkeley's Pacific Center for Human Growth in May 1988, he admits that he imposed a no-nonsense authoritarianism.

"They were trying to raise major money with weenie roasts and wanted to 'process through' every decision. For the first time, these nice white folks had to deal with a loud black queen—who knew her shit—as their boss!" cackles Saxxon.

Saxxon learned his "shit" while developing an emergency PWA housing program for San Francisco's AIDS Foundation in 1987, and by succoring his sister, who died of AIDS in their native Miami the following year. When the Pacific Center decided to abandon APEB, Saxxon, who was completing an audit of their financially-troubled operation, was asked to take it over.

APEB's employees then became independent contractors with the County under a grant from the state Office of AIDS. That meant black service providers working without job security or benefits in the African American Oakland community had to answer to an Anglo bureaucracy. The situation virtually invited discord.

"Alameda County has 15,000 HIV positives, 800 diagnosed PWAs, 30,000 intravenous drug users and a syphilis epidemic. County officials were bragging about spending a lousy \$1 million a year on AIDS. I told them they should be 'shamed,'" Saxxon recalls.

Provision of a full array of HIV services including education, outreach, clinic, legal aid and counseling for 400 clients on a paltry annual budget of \$418,000 may help explain why Saxxon is still on staff despite making such scathing criticisms—and why he continues to criticize.

While some observers, not all white, have accused him of being confrontative, vain and manipulative, others grudgingly concede that his tough hide and aggressiveness have served his agency in good stead thus far. As the Project embarks upon its new life as an independent black-run corporation, Larry Saxxon will have plenty of opportunities to prove that he remains its best pilot and advocate.



Larry Saxxon

## D.C. Gets AIDS Clinic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—After wearing testimony from four members of a newly formed black gay organization, Washington, D.C.'s City Council has agreed to help fund a new health facility for sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs).

The body tentatively allocated \$500,000 for fiscal 1990. Four of the District's best known gay activists requested commitment from the City: Chris Bates, former co-chair of BWMT/DC; Jim Harvey, deputy director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic; Chuck Hicks of Best Friends; and Undre Scott, co-owner of the Clubhouse and founder of Us Helping Us.

The idea for locating an AIDS counseling center and clinic in the African American community began six months ago when Bates gathered together several activist friends to share ideas and offer mutual support for each other's professional endeavors. The black AIDS facility soon grew from an idle fantasy into an active project, and catalyzed the group's transformation into the African American Collective (AAC).

"AAC does not plan to run the STD facility. We're more of an evolving think tank, initiating and assessing ideas and projects," said Bates.

Yet AAC's members, as individuals, may carry enough clout in the District to translate dreams into reality. Bates has just been asked to serve on the City's new Commission on Domestic Partner's Benefits. Other AAC members include Human Rights Commissioner Linda Lawson and special assistant to the mayor Cliff Roberson.



# South Central AIDS Agencies Almost Defunded

LOS ANGELES—Only four community-based organizations providing AIDS services in South Central Los Angeles were funded by the state for fiscal year 1990, and then only after public protests were made. In its latest cycle of grants, the Office of AIDS initially defunded four black-run AIDS agencies and rejected all proposals submitted by black organizations. Of \$3 million allocated to L.A. AIDS agencies, only 8.5 percent was to be disbursed to minority agencies. In addition, black AIDS agencies in the Bay area, and Latino organizations in both northern and southern California lost their state funding.

As the news spread among minority AIDS administrators, bewilderment gave way to anger. While King-Drew Medical Center and several westside agencies were refunded, the first is not a CBO and the latter are Anglo-run and focused. Previous meetings with state officials and politicians had led South Central CBO's to believe that the growing rate of HIV infection among blacks would be met with increased funding in black target areas.

Phill Wilson, chair of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, hastily organized a meeting of the rejected service providers to explore strategies for a concerted response. Refunded agencies such as AIDS project Los Angeles (ALPA), were asked to participate as a gesture of support. Although ALPA sent no representative, King-Drew Medical Center chose to host and actively support the South Central CBOs. Senators Bill Greene and Diane Watson sent representatives.

Meanwhile, Wilson and the CBOs launched vigorous lobbying campaigns to determine the reason for and to reverse OOA's decisions. Calls flooded in to Thelma Fraizear, Director of OOA, from the offices of Watson, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, and several Latino legislators.

During the CBO meeting, Wilson's suggestion that a press conference denouncing the state's action be held, was agreed upon. In addition, the CBO representatives decided to work more closely together and to carry their case to Sacramento politicians and OOA in person.

In the middle of the meeting, word was received through Watson's office that OOA had revised its awards, and chosen to refund those South Central CBOs which had previously been funded. None of the first-time applicants, however, received funding. Both old and new applicants were advised that they were initially defunded because of poor contract compliance and, especially, submission of inferior proposals. They were refunded, Fraizear's office said, only because of OOA's desire to fund AIDS agencies based in targeted, high-risk communities.

After further discussion, the refunded agencies's representatives agreed to proceed with the planned press conference, partially to show solidarity with non-funded CBOs, and partially to register their objections to OOA's policy and handling of their contracts.

Shortly thereafter, some of those involved received calls from Brandy Moore, a black gay assistant to speaker Willie Brown based in San Francisco. Moore urged CBO representatives to take care not to jeopardize their future funding or to antagonize black legislators by overreacting with public criticism of Fraizear, a black administrator unpopular with some AIDS service providers, but respected by black politicians for running a controversial and notoriously underfunded agency under the hostile administration of Gov. George Deukmejian.

Prior to the Tuesday morning press conference, the minority service providers again met to solidify their strategy with Rev. Carl Bean, executive director of the Minority AIDS Project, echoing Moore's comments based on his communications with Assemblywoman Waters, most of the CBO representatives wanted either to cancel the press conference or to remain silent and off-camera. Debate grew heated as the press corps gathered just outside the conference room at the Urban League.

Finally it was agreed that the only speakers would be Charles Stewart, representing Watson, who chairs the Senate Health Committee and Phill Wilson.

When the press were allowed in, Stewart pointed out that the Governor's refusal to allow AIDS funding to increase as HIV infection spread and shifted to the minority population, effectively pitted AIDS service providers against one another in competition for scarce dollars. he said Senator Watson was requesting a meeting with the State's director of Health Services to push or greater responsiveness to the trends of the AIDS epidemic.

Wilson stressed that AIDS monies and services were not being directed to the communities and populations at highest risk: gay and bisexual African Americans in South Central Los Angeles and the Bay area.

Agencies which were funded by OOA following lobbying efforts were: the AIDS Project of First African Methodist Episcopal Church (\$50,000), the Julia Hillman Drug and Alcohol Center (\$82,000); MAP (\$165,000) and the Watts Health Foundation (\$100,000). However, YES of San Francisco, run by black lesbian activist Pat Norman, was not refunded.



*"I don't care whether he was from your hometown or not. I'm the boss, and I get to take him out first."*



# Harris Becomes First Female Episcopal Bishop

BOSTON—The Rev. Barbara Harris joins an Episcopal diocese that is considered to be among the most progressive in the nation.

Harris, 58, was consecrated last month as a suffragan, or assistant, bishop of Massachusetts but is considered a full bishop. She is the first woman elected to the position in the 450-year history of the church, which has 2.5 million members in the United States.

Her selection has drawn criticism from church members who say she lacks proper theological training, education and experience in the ministry. Some say the gender factor, coupled with liberal views on many church social issues, will cause a split among the leadership and will lead to a drop in membership.

"It is probably the only diocese in the entire world that would elect her. Her credentials, divorce, lack of education if she had been a man she would never have gotten past the first cut," said Rev. Titus Oates of Boston, an ardent opponent of Harris's selection.

Supporters say Harris, ordained in 1980, is the right person for leadership. They stress that her outspokenness and commitment to urban and contemporary social issues, like racial and gender equality, is not opportunistic or radical, but dedicated activism based on deeply rooted church ideals.

"From the very beginning, Massachusetts Episcopalians made room for and tolerated different ways of responding to the Christian faith," said retired Rev. George Blackmon, an expert on church history.

"Massachusetts was one of the few dioceses to have such an active organization advocating priesthood for women," said Rev. Elsa Walberg, an authority on women in the ministry and the first female ordained in the Episcopal Church in Massachusetts.

There are 88 women serving as deacons or priests in Massachusetts Episcopal parishes. "We are visible everywhere and the roofs are not caving in," said Walberg. "There are more and more parishes becoming more comfortable. Five years ago that was very iffy."

"You could say an explicit part of the leadership of the diocese is [due to] a concern for minorities, women and the black community," Blackmon said.

In 1976, a study called for the Massachusetts diocese to move beyond institutional matters and to strengthen the ministry in areas of economic, social and cultural concerns.

Rev. David Johnson, the Episcopal bishop of Massachusetts, says the diocese is seen as politically progressive with an urban agenda. "So many of the [parishes] are urban. They are not part of greater Boston. They are urban communities with many...problems."

Harris fits the blueprint. She grew up in Philadelphia and in her early years in the church she was active in civil rights issues and served as a volunteer prison chaplain. She also ran the Episcopal Church Publishing Co., a separate journal advocating peace and justice.

Harris, who is black and divorced, has taken strong positions against poverty, discrimination against homosexual clergy, apartheid, and other racial or sexual prejudice.

She has pushed for ordination of women, but says she will not use her position to solely further that cause. She avoids political labels, saying a liberal tag would isolate her from many church issues.

With the selection of Harris, some traditionalists say Massachusetts has led the church to its final crisis. "Massachusetts is not in step with the rest of the country,"

Oates said.

But Johnson says despite its progressiveness, the Massachusetts diocese has many who are "middle of the road" and who have "strong historical roots and value systems that do not tend to be radical or flamboyant."

## Sullivan OKs Needles; HHS Says Lose Fed \$

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—An arm of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is warning local AIDS programs they could lose federal money if they support needle-exchange programs, even though the head of HHS has more recently endorsed such programs.

The warning was contained in a memo dated February 19 from the National Institute of Drug Abuse. The memo went out recently before HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan endorsed local programs that let drug addicts trade their used needles for clean ones to stem the spread of AIDS.

Sullivan, whose department includes the Public Health Service, which oversees the institute, also said the federal government could provide information and personnel to such programs.

But Public Health Service spokesman James Brown denied a conflict between the memo and Sullivan's comments. He said the policies of both the service and the White House prohibit use of federal funds for needle-exchange programs, but if that policy were changed, the department could provide such federal support.

"You could do it, which is what Sullivan said," Brown said. "We're not doing it and NIDA [the institute] is telling people we're not going to do it."

## Gay PAC Seeks Black Applicants for Top Post

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's ninth largest political action committee or PAC, is actively recruiting black lesbians and gays to apply for the post of executive director. The \$75,000 per year job becomes available July 1, 1989.

Director Vic Basile announced his resignation earlier this year, and is participating in the selection of his successor. After several years as head of the only national gay PAC, Basile has decided to pursue other interests.

HRCF's executive director is responsible for both advocacy and operations connected with the PAC's gay and AIDS lobby. Applicant expertise is sought in four areas: administration, communications, fundraising and politics. The executive director will supervise a staff of 23 and be answerable to a board of directors.

HRCF, whose 1988 budget was \$1.8 million, recently divided its functions among several subsidiary corporations. It has become a membership organization, with decision and fundraising responsibilities reserved to the board of directors.

The board's national search committee is expected to screen and recommend a candidate by early May, and the board may fill the position before the end of June. Qualified black applicants may contact Tim Hull, search committee consultant, at 202-467-8870.



# Rangel Slams Sullivan on Needle Exchange

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), issued a stinging attack last month on Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan for supporting clean-needle programs for drug users in communities trying to stop the spread of AIDS.

Rangel said he found it shocking that Sullivan, who took over the health agency shortly after Bush was elected, would advocate the idea of exchanging needles with drug addicts instead of proposing programs to expand drug treatment services.

"The first step he takes in drug abuse is to appear to give support to addicts by giving them needles," Rangel said. "It's an immoral thing to distribute needles to addicts. The next thing you know they'll be distributing drugs."

"It sends a message to the minority community that we don't have the time, the resources or the will to try to get you off drugs and back into the mainstream, but we do have the time to give you sterile needles," he said.

Sullivan, said he does not believe needle-exchange programs condone drug abuse, but rather could deal with one way the deadly AIDS virus is spread—among drug addicts through the use of shared needles. Once infected, addicts also can spread the disease to sex partners and their babies.

While emphasizing that decisions on such programs should be made locally, Sullivan said needle-exchange programs "deserve a chance for an appropriate trial" in communities that want them.

New York City Health Commissioner Stephen C. Joseph said Sullivan's support was a "tremendous boost" to his program, one of only a few in the country.

The New York program has enrolled 92 addicts, 60 percent of whom are infected with the AIDS virus—"and that's viruses taken off the street," he said.

However, Rangel called the New York program "a complete flop." He also opposes a recent HHS proposal to make it easier for heroin addicts to get methadone while waiting for comprehensive treatment, saying the program would only "substitute one addictive drug for another."

In a related development, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Association announced a \$75 million grant program to expand drug treatment services in cities that have waiting lists of more than one month. A critical purpose of the grants, the agency said, is to help get addicts off the streets faster to reduce the spread of AIDS.

## 2,127 Die in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP)—More than half of Tanzania's 4,158 AIDS victims have died, and prostitution has been primarily responsible for the virus's spread in this East African nation, government-run Radio Tanzania reported Tuesday.

The radio quoted Dr. Raymond Swai, who heads Tanzania's AIDS control program, as saying 2,127 people had died as a result of the virus since it first was reported in 1983.

Swai, who was addressing a four-day AIDS control workshop in the capital Dodoma, blamed prostitution for 80 percent of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome's spread in Tanzania, according to the broadcast.



Charles B. Rangel

## S.F. Women Dance for Fall Racism Confab

SAN FRANCISCO—Over 100 women weathered the cold and rain to dance to the rhythms of salsa, soul and funk at Colors with DJs Francoise and Chata (KPFA/KPOO) March 9. The occasion was the kickoff fundraiser for the Lesbian Agenda for Action (LAFA) conference on racism scheduled for November 1989.

"It was good to see such a colorful crowd," said Geneva Fernandez, co-partner of Colors. "That's what Colors is about—incorporating the diversity of the lesbian community. It's the only place of its kind in town."

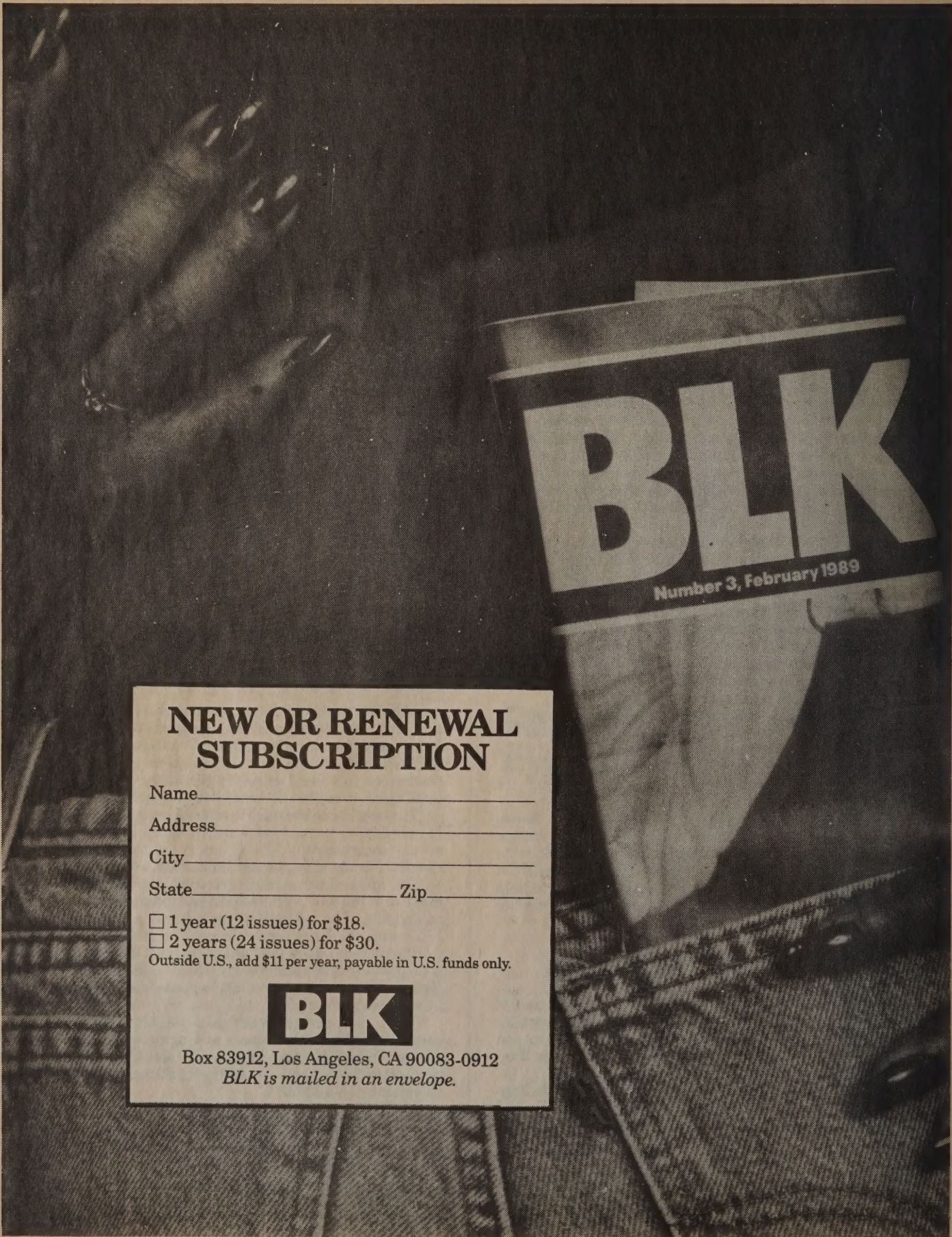
The multiracial setting provided a place for all lesbians to come and socialize and hear about the upcoming conference. The planning committee consists of both LAFA and non-LAFA activists.

"We're real excited by the response. Especially as it was put together with fairly short notice," said L. A. Hyder. "The women came out because they're interested in what we're doing."

Other fundraising event planned for the future include Thursday night dances at Colors and a film series at the York featuring Bay Area talent. LAFA can be reached at 3543 - 18th St. #32, San Francisco, CA 94110. Telephone 415-522-5677.

**The monthly AIDS report for the black community does not appear in this issue because the national Centers for Disease Control is in the process of changing their reporting format. The summary will resume next month.**





**BLK**  
Number 3, February 1989

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# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

**THE HORIZON IS NOT A PIANO BAR**, and there's no hired entertainment during the week. But sometimes when blacks gather and brew together a certain mixture of cold beer and warm flesh, conversation loosens and laughter sings. The American in us recedes and the African quickens. From somewhere we hear percussion music which contracts our muscles in rhythmic anticipation. We remember steps, notes, rituals we have never been taught.

Early one night last week the club was so dark, so empty that the chairs and tables at the far end of the



room became vaguely menacing silhouettes. But at the bar, someone beckoned to **John**. John's arm rose in an arc and descended in front of **Mary**. A moment earlier she had stood head down, shoulders slumped, bent beneath some private pain. But she giggled when John poured her the pina colada. The more she sipped the broader her smile grew. Until everyone in the club was looking at her, seeing something we all recognized and did not need to name.

John paced us. "Alright, alright, I know what y'all need," he soothed in his gravel-bass voice. He nodded at **Gene**, the barback, and disappeared into a back room, while Gene uncovered one of the distant silhouettes to reveal a white, baby grand piano. **Big Ed** escorted **Mary** to its side and sat her on the bench. She lifted her head and we could see her in profile, full lips, full 'fro, round face; she looked like an older, happier **Tracy Chapman**.

John materialized from the shadows with a live microphone. At first, **Mary's** hands did not remember the keys—it had been a long time—but as she sang, chords flowed out of her fingertips and the piano's resistance yielded to her sweet touch. Her voice was warm, not brilliant, inviting us to add our own. Show tunes and love songs and jazz-blues. Some of us stood, others sat at the bar, but everybody sang, everybody jammed. And **Mary**, singing into the darkness, wailed "I'm a woman-loving woman!..."

**WE WANTED TO KNOW ONCE AND FOR ALL** just what (who) was going down (on who) at the **Cottage**, so we decided to sneak up on the Pico bar in mid-week. We saw nothing that would give anyone a clue that **Dorothy's** friends hung out there. Now owned by the Hawaiian—Japanese family which runs the fast food eatery next door, we are nonetheless assured that discreet liaisons are still struck up in the darker corners, while the heteros are engrossed in the ballgames on the video...Meanwhile, over and up a few blocks, the **Carriage Trade** carries on, its trade, still the most genteel, if not the most genial bar in Gaytown. We'd heard that when longtime bartender **JD** was summarily canned, he betook himself and his loyal clientele to West Hollywood's **Rose Tatoo**. So we sauntered over. The Tatoo still looks like and

caters to the *nouveau gauche*, but AKA sorors will love it: pink and green and mirrors everywhere. Back at the Trade, you won't find more gay buppies anywhere than here during happy hours, led by longtime patron, **Clarence**...Motorcycle stud **Harry Morse**, ex-manager of the old Griff's, has been showing up at the new Griff's lately, apparently to quell those rumors that **Griff Martin** and **Wes Kunej** fired him when they switched locations a few months ago. Whatever. If some are pissed that **Wes** and **Griff** have tried to convert what was once the **Stud** from an interracial into a leather bar, nobody can deny that they were the first and only owners of a white gay bar to simultaneously employ a black manager (**Harry**), bartender and barback. So if ever-gracious **Harry** harbors no grudges, who are we to gripe?...**Dennis H.**, denizen of too many north-of-Pico saloons to name, recently opened up a new gateway to Palm Springs. His latest find, with whom he is not-yet-lovers, shuttles between the desert and Brentwood, hauling **Dennis** with him whenever he can: But at the moment, **Dennis** is in Vancouver on—ahem—business...Now that spring is here, what hunky Inglewood political activist seems unable to resist showing off his assets in the tightest, shortest shorts he can campaign in?...Maybe the U.S. should withdraw from the United Nations as right wingers often demand and affiliate with the **Annex** instead: On a recent Saturday night, we counted: 12 blacks, five Anglos, three Latinos, two Pilipinos, six women and two transpersons, all getting along as if they were passengers on Noah's Ark...Don't forget: If you've got good dish, call 213-410-0808 and spit it out. We won't even ask your name. But remember, Sugarlump, we have to be able to verify your tale, so be sure to tell us know.



"No, Professor Jones, I wasn't in your Psych class today, but I was in the 3rd floor john, 2nd stall, just before your psych class."

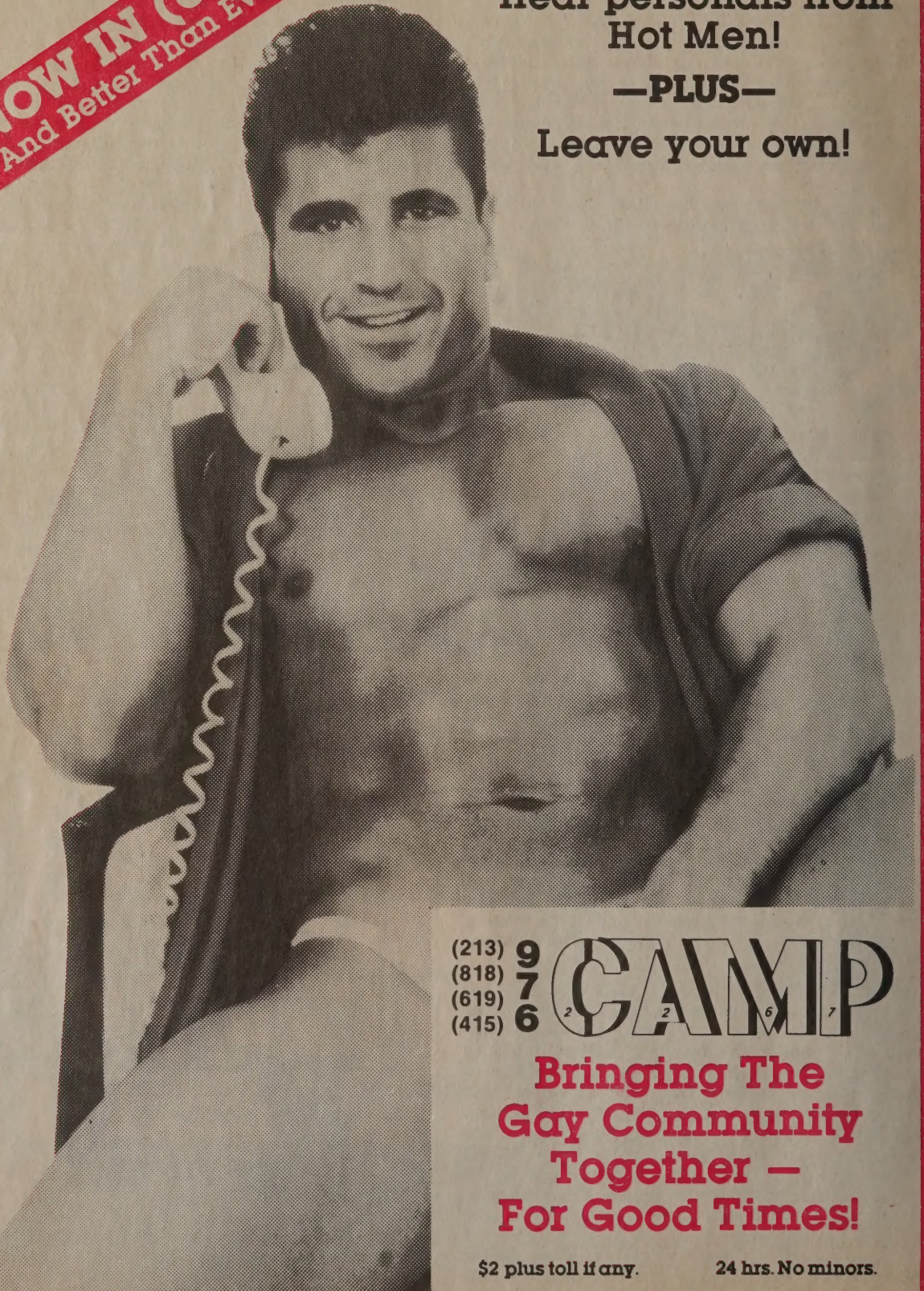


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# Blk List

If you want your organization *Blk Listed*, drop a note to Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. Deadline for the May issue is April 24, 1989. The *Blk List* is designed for events that occur on a regular schedule. One-time events appear on the *Blk Board*.

- \*Slightly black
- \*\*Significantly black
- \*\*\*Almost all black
- \*\*\*\*Whites don't get a warm and cozy reception
- †Mixed gay and straight

## BARS AND BATHS

**Annex\***, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.

**Basgo's\***, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.

**Caper Room\*\*\***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403. Mondays 10 p.m. Sir Marshall; Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male exotic dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Thursdays 9:30 p.m. Love Connection show; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.

**Catch One\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. 1st and 3rd Sundays 4-8 p.m. Women's Tea Dance with proceeds to Minority AIDS Project and Alcoholism Center for Women; Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.

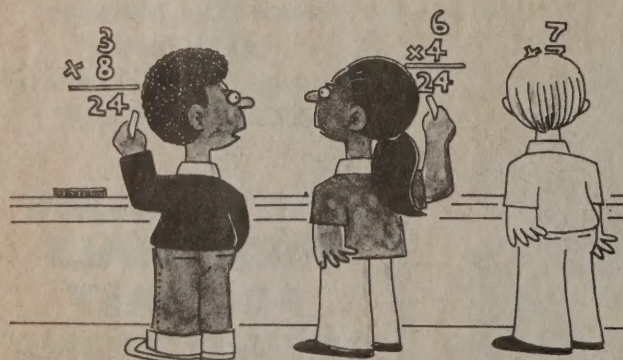
**Cottage\*\*\*\*†**, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.

**Cover Girl Club\*\*\*\*†**, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595. Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)

**Eagle\***, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252.

**Foster's Club Penthouse\*\***, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd. #3, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-837-5881.

**Griff's\***, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889. Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.



WINNERS

"This is how it starts, you know.  
The division between gay men and lesbians  
that will haunt us all our lives."

**Horizon\*\*\***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678. Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Sundays and Wednesdays 10 p.m. The LaVerne Show; Mondays 9 p.m. Men's night and Gong Show with DJ; Tuesdays Wellfare Night; Thursdays Male exotic dancers.

**Jewel's Room\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.

**Midtowne Spa\*\***, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price, 8 p.m. until Dancing downstairs; Wednesdays 8 p.m. Drawing for \$50 first prize; Fridays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs, 10 p.m. Erotic dance show; Saturdays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs.

**Rage\***, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7596. Tuesdays Gong Show, and 10 p.m.-2 a.m. London Life; 3rd Wednesday Fashion Show.

**Study\*\***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-9551. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour.

## RESTAURANTS

**Carriage Trade\***, 8225 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, 213-655-6425.

**Casita de Campo\***, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-662-4255.

**Crest\***, 3725 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-660-3645.

## ORGANIZATIONS

**Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group**, 168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Saturdays 5 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 6 p.m.

**Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-667-2549. Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-274-3398. 1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Jack**, Box 83515, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515, 213-338-1516.

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together**, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, West Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716. Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 2nd Sunday 4 p.m. HIV+ Support pot luck dinner (location varies); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering committee meeting (location varies).

**Black and White Men Together**, National Organization, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.

**Black and White Men Together**, 2269 Market St. #199, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-664-0234,



213-274-3398.

**Black Lesbians and Gays for Justice**, Box 341412, Los Angeles, CA 090034, 213-664-0234.

**Ebony Connection**, 227 Congress St. #125, Austin, TX 78767, 512-478-DRUM.

**Gentlemen Concerned**, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

**Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women**, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805. Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color; Wednesdays Women of color support group.

**Lesbians of Colour**, Box 6597, Sta. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X9, Canada.

**Makeda**, 1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105. Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays 5 p.m. Women's rap group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" black women support group.

**Minority AIDS Project**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking support group; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS support group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); Fridays 1 p.m. Family members of AIDS patients support group.

**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219, 313-537-0484.

**National Minority AIDS Council**, 714 G St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-1076.

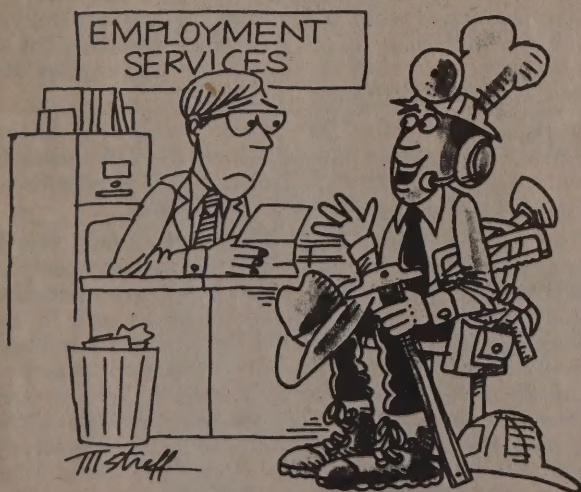
**Unity Fellowship Church**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship service; Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible study; Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**, 4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B, Compton, CA 90221, 213-639-3068. Thursdays 7 p.m. Positive approach to wellness support group for PWAs or HIV+s (Held at Watts Health Medical Holistic Center, 7514 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044).

**Womyn of Colors**, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205, Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**, 9001 Keith Ave., West Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Z and Z Productions**, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039, 213-663-6340.



*"If I were white and straight, I'd be 'versatile.'  
But I'm black and gay, so I'm 'overqualified.'  
...How'd you like to have me put this T-square up where  
the sun doesn't shine?"*

# ROOMMATE MATCHERS

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# Blk Market

## SERVICES

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Personal health and fitness instructor. Phone Mack at 213-465-2551. (6)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

AIDS Nursing Care: RNs, LVNs, CNAs, all shifts. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (6)

Executive Director. Impact, lesbian and gay political action committee. Responsible for strategic and political planning, fundraising, communications, reporting. Requires knowledge local/state politics, media, database and word processing, written/oral skills. Salary \$30-35,000. Equal opportunity employer. Resume and two reference letters by April 29, 1989. Impact, 3225 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657. (5)

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Recovery Anonymous/12 Step†, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (7)

San Diego AIDS Project craves black input. Call 619-543-0300. (7)

Nechama Jewish AIDS education, advocacy, referral. 213-653-8313. (6)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for a roommate for 3-bedroom house. \$350 month including utilities. Call 213-960-7746. (7)

## MASSEURS

Non-sexual massage by hot BiWM, 195 lbs., 5'10" body-builder, big thighs, bubble butt. Certified, with table. \$40/hour. 213-204-6384. (7)

Very attractive body builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

## PERSONALS—EASTERN U.S.

GWM, 40, 130 pounds, 5'5", trim, clean, hung, healthy, smooth, tender, successful professional, seeks black for short or long-term companion to share bed, country living and city entertainment. No unhealthy habits. Hot for meeting you, seeing photo. Derick B., Box 1022, Greenwich, CT 06836. (5)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53

years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or active. 40 to 70. No drugs, fems, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ 08607-2223. (9)

Black male, educated, cultured, refined, interested in corresponding and meeting compatible males, any race or religion. Rev. R. J. Strickland, Box 72, Boston, MA 02126-0072. (7)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

Black Chicago area friend needed. Call Mick 312-956-0006. 6'2", 180 lbs. waiting just for the right man. Or write Box 1962, Des Plaines, IL 60018. Come on guys, go for it! (5)

## PERSONALS—WESTERN U.S.

Handsome GWM, 35, tall muscular, lean, seeks very muscular black man for passion with future. William 415-431-2656. (6)

Discreet? Creative? Experimental? Married? Limited time? Professional middle age WM looking for close straight-appearing friend for quality times. 25-45. Former 15-year friend transferred. Black/Latin/Mid East. Write Robert Belton, Box 741360, Los Angeles, CA 90004. (5)

WM, 28, 6'2", 190#, 44" c., 33" w., Gr/A, Fr A/P. Want to meet all football players, wrestlers, weightlifters, 6'-7"+, 200-300#+. I am good-looking and masculine. (HIV neg.) 213-394-8689. (5)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272(7)

GWM, 55, 5'10", 190 lbs., quiet homebody in recent years. Which darling young thing, 35-60, will help bring him out again? Friendship, hopefully 1-on-1. No role-playing. Small endowed, uncut okay. Hans. 213-256-7568, or 927 Pine Grove Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90042 (Eagle Rock). (5)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disappointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

25-year-old attractive green-eyed, loving South'rn belle (GWM) seeking black masculine men (22-35) for loving fun, and stable companionship. Ya'll come and experience true South'rn hospitality. Darryl. 213-386-6449. (5)

Good-looking, GBM, 6'4", 36, 220 lbs., fair, bearded, professional, stalking articulate cuddle-bear, beefy and bearded (well, a moustache'll do) who will savor and succor, challenge and cherish, explore frontiers and frottage. Nothing easy sought or offered here, though a bed buddy would appeal: I'm uncertain if I'm focused or generous enough to be anyone's lover. Domestic, I'm not. Being intense, analytical and verbal, similar types attract; others beware. But I do love to laugh. If I sound like the stray pet you've been looking for, write Alex, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-237, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (7)

I love dark skins. Mature GWM, 65, seeks caring other for 1-to-1, possible lifemate. Healthy, shy, versatile, non-smoker. Love books, films, music, sharing TLC. Let's explore potentials. Looks unimportant, character is.



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LINE**

**TWICE THE  
ACTION OF  
ANY OTHER**

**976**

**HUGE**



**\$2.00 PLUS TOLL IF ANY**



Letter/photo to Gene, 328 N. Ave. 59, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (6)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (5)

GWM, 50 years old, great shape, nice smooth body, bottom fem. and passive, seeks top, dominant male for steady friendship at my home in Northwest San Fernando Valley. A nice, spiritual person like me. No booze, drugs, marrieds or hassle. (I am not a switch-hitter. (Me Jane, you Tarzan, a must.)) If interested, please call me at 818-999-1897. Andra. (5)

Nude talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (5)

Educated BM, 20s, seeks other masculine, mature, brassy, intelligent black males for friendship and fun. Looking for individuals who are well-rounded and enjoy the most of what life has to offer. Open-minded, adaptability a must. No effeminates! Respond with letter/photo. Photo will be returned. Box 18A255, Los Angeles, CA 90018. (5)

Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

WM, attractive hung FP, 50s, HIV negative, seeks good-looking smooth FA, any race, into classic films, opera, etc. Photo and phone to Brad, Box 85462, Los Angeles, CA 90072. (5)

12 step program. Handsome, 60, 8 years young, seeks friend (possible relationship) under 50. Box 155, 8721 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (5)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138. (7)

Hot, handsome, hunky New York Greek, 26, Br/Bl-eyed, nutritionist/weight instructor seeks big black very muscular just-released-from-prison-looking man (24-36). Love safe sex, but not necessary; "just buddies" is great. Jim 213-874-5437. (5)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Hollywood, CA 90078. (7)

Commitment and values. Blk/M, 38, seeks an affectionate and stable Grk/A man 40-55 who likes nature, homelife and 1-to-1. Any race. Mel 213-656-0258, ext.22. (5)

Butch GWM, 51, seeks GR/A black SFV buddy. 818-766-6033. (6)

Blond hunk seeks young thin top. Box 75441, LA 90075(6)

European, bi, trim, safe, seeks thick or uncut-endowed. Box 2733, Los Angeles, CA 90078. (6)

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Hot, muscular white dude with a pussy-ass wants beer-can thick dicks. Young, black total top, hung at least 9" long and 6" around. Call 213-656-5371. (5)

Puerto Rican, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs., seeking daytime masculine black-Latins hung fat to please. Willie 213-657-2539. (6)

GBM, age 28, 5'6", 120 lbs. seeks true love. Any race: macho Call 213-204-5329. (5)

## HOW TO GET INTO THE BLK MARKET FREE

• **Personal ads** of 10 words or less free. Over 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

• **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

• **All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.

• **Box number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal* or *employment offered* ad sent to a BLK box for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

• **Replying to a BLK box.** Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Box #

BLK Classifieds

Box 83912

Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

• **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1. If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is strictly confidential and will not appear in your ad.

### Please complete and sign the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for May issue: April 24, 1989.

### Figure cost of ad:

\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ words at 5¢ (employment only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cost to run ad one month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone verification at \$1 (if required) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BLK Box at \$5 per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed (do not send cash) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083



# MIDTOWNE SPA



**"Serving the  
Gay Black  
Community  
For Over 20  
Years"**

## WE NEVER CLOSE

**24 hours a day there's  
someone here for you!**

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A clean place to come . . .

A fun place to come . . .

A healthy place to come . . .

**COME BY SOON . . . YOU ALL**

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every day of the year



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Special**

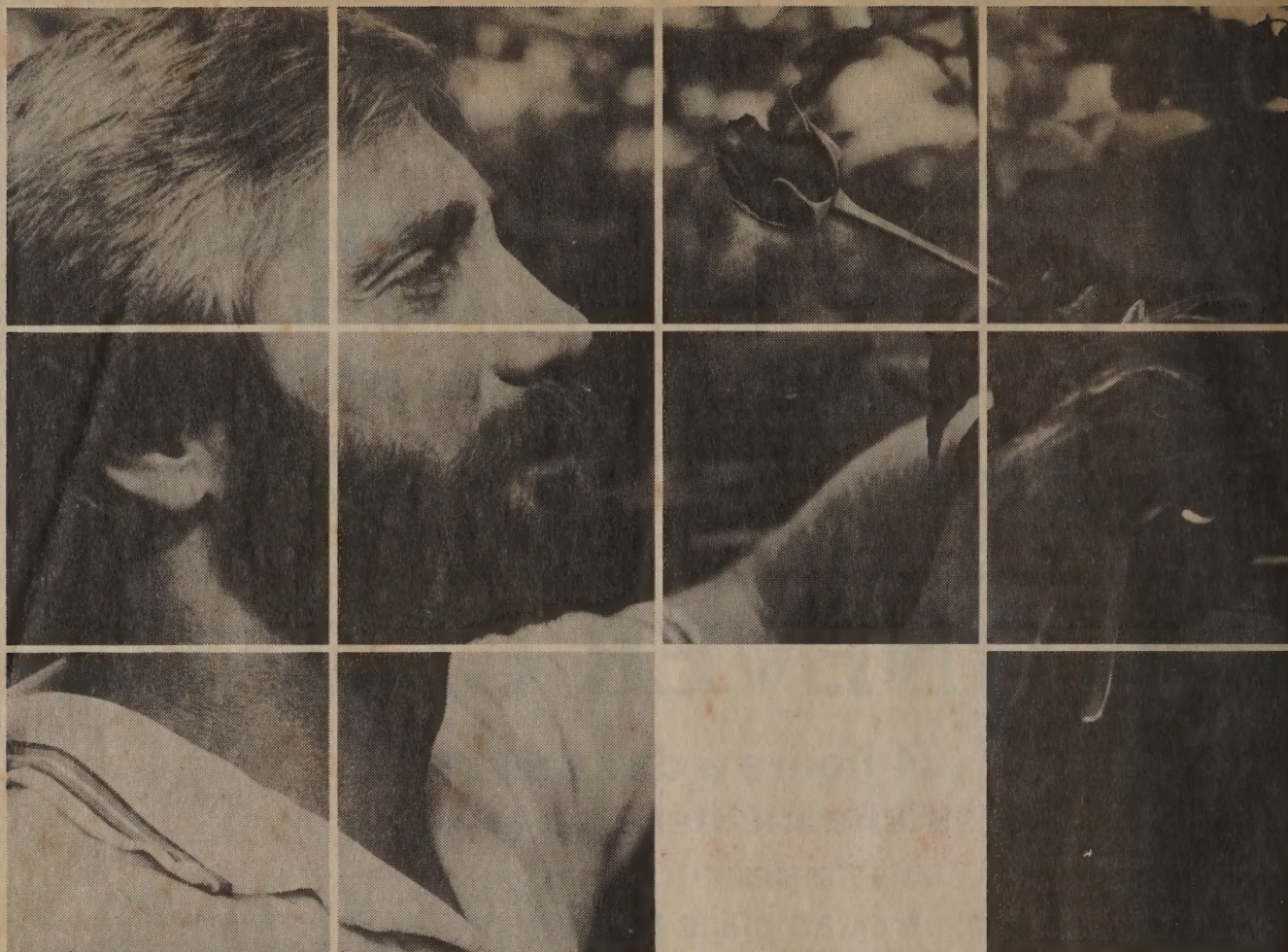
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# BLK

Number 7, June







## *Because we care...*

**We provide the following services:** • medical and legal referrals • residential shelter • emergency food and food bank referrals • medical transportation • benefit assistance • individual and group counseling • "buddy" volunteer assistance.

**And we provide the following AIDS education and training services:** • "training the teacher" programs • community outreach • in-service training • business and professional seminars • speaker's bureau.

## *Want to know more...*

**Call 213-936-4949** anytime day or night. We're here to help. Because we care.

# *Minority AIDS Project*

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# WORD UP

## A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

The pitch for Johnny Walker Scotch which appears on this page ran in the March 20, 1989 issue of *New York* magazine. And you probably thought it ran in *The Advocate*.

## D.C. Hair Stylist Lays Low

Robyn-Denise Yourse of Washington, D.C.'s *Afro-American* reports that celebrated area hairstylist Bubbles has seemingly taken on a low-keyed posture following his appearance last month on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. He discussed his homosexuality on the program, which is syndicated nationally.

## Wayans: Boot Camp Masculinity

Laurie Stone in New York's *Village Voice* had an earful to say recently about one up-and-coming black comedian:

"Twenty-seven years ago, Damon Wayans was born into a poor Harlem family as one of 10 kids. He also arrived with a club foot, and he had to wear a thick-soled boxy shoe. These days Wayans is tall, sleek and good-looking, but his splenetic comedy still springs from the perspective of the shoe.

"Wayans sees the way black men, made impotent in society, feel feminized and infantilized and react by striving to prove their masculinity with violent acts and hardened hearts. The trouble with Wayans is that he isn't always in control of this knowledge. Sometimes, the pain of being black and once disabled whelms up as pure

"He works as hard as he plays.  
And he drinks Johnnie Walker."



rage-and gets directed at gay men. Gays obsess him, and his depictions are ignorant and undifferentiated. All are flaming queens who hold limp wrists to their chest, screech in high voices, and run from danger with spaghetti legs. These figures seem to embody his secret fear about himself-and some even reveal self-loathing. Wayans hates his flesh; nothing horrifies him more than the thought of a man incorporating his cock. And, reporting the flack he's taken, huffs, 'If you can take a dick, you can take a joke.' At another point, ripping off Michael Jackson's surgery, he quips, 'If I had \$100 million, I'd have the crack in my ass removed.'

"By becoming the kind of bully he first dissects, Wayans tries to rescind the vulnerability he's shown, but that's only one

motivation. Playing queens-with his limbs flailing out of control and his face suffused with joy-he recovers the freedom he had wearing the shoe. While his mouth insists he's a real man, his body says he's dying for a



vacation from boot-camp masculinity."

## Slick Rick's 'Lick'

The *Village Voice* also served up this tasty bit by pop music critic Cathy Campbell writing about *The Adventures of Slick Rick*, the 24-year-old namesake's debut album:

"In Slick's dogma, only a man can give him a sense of potency (and impregnability) to truly bust out. 'Lick the Balls' [an album cut] is far more homoerotic than Rick might intend—his rap goes beyond testifying to the oracles-of-def-fly and boasting about mouth-to-balls coordination of other rappers."

## Elders Say No to Condom Ads

The *Afro-American* also reports that several D.C. clergypersons and councilmembers have rejected a move to display explicit AIDS prevention posters in public places because of language and pictures referring to using condoms as a preventive measure.

Rev. Albert Gallmon, Jr. of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church said he felt the church was not the best place for messages which speak blatantly of condom use and pre- or extra-marital sexual engagements.

**IF HE  
DOESN'T  
CARE  
ENOUGH  
TO WEAR A  
CONDOM  
HE DOESN'T  
CARE.**

**USE A CONDOM.  
DON'T MESS AROUND WITH AIDS.**

FOR INFORMATION: 332-AIDS (V/TDD)  
D.C. Department of Human Services  
Commission of Public Health



# BLK BOARD

To have your event put on the Blk Board, contact Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the July issue is June 19, 1989. The Blk Board is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are Blk Listed.

Blk Board also acts as a Master Calendar for the black gay community so that scheduling conflicts between events can be minimized. Blk keeps information on both firm and tentative events. Contact us either to let us know the details of your organization's event, or to determine if any other events are already scheduled for a particular day.

## FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Plummer Park, Long Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, Calif. 7 p.m.

The Oxford Club is hosting a benefit party for Gay Men of African Descent. 148 Eleventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 11 p.m. \$6 GMAD members; \$8 non-members advance tickets; \$10 everyone at-door. For more information, call Byron at 718-434-5556, Colin at 718-979-1474, Derek at 718-693-4990 or Michael at 718-287-8392.

## SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989

Annual Memorial Day Picnic sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles in Griffith Park. Free hot dogs, buns and condiments. You bring soft drinks, lemonade or fruit drinks. Alcohol is not permitted in the park. 3 p.m. Call for exact location. 213-664-4716.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1989

Birthday Party for Horizon owner Louis Offlee. 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m. 213-737-9678.

## MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1989

Second Anniversary of the LaVerne Show. DJ is Sydney Perri. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m. For more information, call Bruce Johnson 213-737-9678.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1989

West Coast Premiere of "Wonderland" benefiting the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. The movie stars, among others, Emile Charles as Eddie, a gay mulatto teenager. Reception follows screening. Writers Guild Theatre, 135 S. Doheny, Beverly Hills, Calif. 7:30 p.m. \$20. 213-464-7400, ext. 253.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1989

Gladys Knight headlines "24 Hours for Life," an evening of events at five different New York night spots (11 East, Tracks, Red Zone, The Choice, Tunnel) and a comedy club (Michael's Pub), presented in association with the Warwick Foundation's Second Annual Benefit Gala Weekend. 212-633-1612.

AIDS Education Forum sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

## MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1989

Party for Bruce W. Johnson celebrating his promotion to the Horizon's Entertainment Coordinator. 3416 W. Wash-

ington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m.

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m.

Poet Cheryl Clarke and sci-fi writer Samuel R. Delany will be among the authors reading from their works at "The Benefit of Words: New York," a part of New York's Gay Pride Celebration. Astor Place Theatre, 434 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 8 p.m. \$15.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1989

Juneteenth Party. Cottage, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2 p.m. until. 213-935-5540.

Juneteenth Party. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 5 p.m. 213-671-7323.

Juneteenth Party. Food. Entertainment by Vision A Jazz and Blues Band. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-737-1159.

## MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1989

Batman Party. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-737-9678.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by BWMT/LA. Catch One Disco, Roots Room, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1989

Exodus Travel Service will hold a party for Bernard, a candidate for Emperor XVII of the South Bay Imperial Court. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-285-8619.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1989

Rev. Carl Bean will be honored as Christopher Street West/Los Angeles's Man of the Year in ceremonies at West Hollywood Park, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, W. Hollywood, Calif. 3 p.m.

The 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," will be held at West Hollywood Park, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, W. Hollywood, Calif. Sat., June 24, Noon-Midnight. Sun., June 25, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventists Kinship International is sponsoring its First Annual Kinship Kampmeeting Karavan beginning in San Diego with its final destination the Tenth Annual Kinship Kampmeeting in the Portland, Oregon area. The Karavan will stop in Los Angeles for a kickoff rally and vegetarian potluck picnic June 24, 1989. For more information call 213-876-2076 or write Box 3840-K, Los Angeles, CA 90078-3840.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1989

Maxine Waters will appear as Grand Marshall of the 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," sponsored by Christopher Street West/Los Angeles. Parking available at the Pacific Design Center. 12:30 p.m.

Ronald S. Johnson, director of the Minority AIDS Task Force, and Barbara Smith, founder of Kitchen Table Press, will be among the speakers at "Celebration 20! The Rally." The rally will include speeches, music and entertainment. Central Park, Great Lawn, New York, N.Y. 2-6 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1989

"Monarch Show" featuring the current Emperor and Em-



press of the Imperial Court of South Bay. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$5. 213-671-7323.

The Second Conference of Anti-Homophobia Education, "Ending Heterosexuality and Homophobia: Strategies, Networking and Support," will explore, among other things, "the relationships between racism, sexism and homophobia." Separate support groups for women of color and men of color will meet during the conference. UCLA Conference Center, 310 DeNeve Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. June 30-July 3, 1989. Fees vary depending on registration date. For more information contact Jeff Beane at 213-273-6375 (California) or Mary Jo Osterman at 312-864-2840 (Illinois), or write Box 819, Cambridge, MA 02139.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1989

45th Birthday Celebration for Rev. Carl Bean. Also the kickoff for "Coming Home for Friends Week." Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-6 p.m. \$10 single tickets, \$45 individual sponsorships (includes 2 tickets), \$450 organizational sponsorships (includes 10 tickets).

The Ninth Annual Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together will take place July 2-8, 1989 at the Florida State University Center for Professional Development in Tallahassee, Florida. For more information contact BWMT Tallahassee/Big Bend Florida, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3321. 904-681-9499.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1989

Dionne Warwick will headline "Coming Home for Friends II," a redux of last year's gospel concert and benefit for Minority AIDS Project. Shrine Auditorium, 649 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-936-4949.

## BLK MAIL

### Anti-Woman Cartoons

Dear Editor:

I found the captions to the cartoons on pages 19 and 25 of February issue to be anti-woman.

I appreciate your articles that contribute to the integrity of black women, lesbians, and gays, such as the Germain Maisonet interview and the report on Nia retreat.

I support a feminist bias in recreating our world, including our publications.

Ananda Lowe  
Los Angeles, California

### Insight and Analysis

Dear Editor:

L. Lloyd Jordan's "Policing the Task Force" [BLK, May 1989] was one of the best pieces of insight and analysis I've read in the gay press in a long time.

Steve Taravella  
Santa Monica, California

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

## News of the BLK Family

In a recent editorial, *Frontiers* publisher Bob Craig called BLK "a nicely designed monthly magazine" that "non-blacks will enjoy." He called it "a welcome addition to the journalistic family ...[that] deserves both your readership and your advertising support."

Meanwhile, in an article called "Minority Gays Find Strength in Unity," the *Los Angeles Times* dismissed BLK as "a mix of news, pictures of nude men in raunchy party-line advertisements and risqué profiles of porn stars." The article also misquoted BLK publisher Alan Bell as having made a tasty mixture of sexist and self-serving remarks.

New York's Gay Men of African Descent did a write-up on BLK in their *Calendar* while *Update* in San Diego called BLK "an outstanding new gay/lesbian publication."

BLK welcomes five people to the staff this month. Asif Zaman takes over in advertising allowing Gene Cornelius to move to public relations. Baltimore photographer David Weems, noted for delicious pictures of black men, will be providing BLK with East Coast images. Lars Eighner, L. Lloyd Jordan and Blair Nix join as contributors. On the promotion front, Mark Haile moves from contributor to staff writer.

And speaking of the East Coast, BLK can use as many correspondents (words and/or pictures) from cities across the country as it can get. If you'd like to be our eyes and ears in your hometown, drop us a line, a fax or a phone call. BLK also has several local staff positions open. Experienced journalists who can donate a few hours to a rookie publication are urged to give a call. We'll do lunch.—A.B.

## BLK

Number 7, June 1989

Editor and Publisher Alan Bell

Staff Writers Revon Kyle Banneker, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Chi Hughes, Jarvis D. Moore

Contributors Clarence Burns III, L. Paul Davis, Lars Eighner, Frank Hall, L. Lloyd Jordan, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen, Blair Nix

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Finance Howard McPhatter

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Cover: Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. Photo by Alan Bell.  
Cartoons courtesy Ebony. New captions by BLK.



# Harrassment vs. Protection

*Police actions at Hollywood bar stir feelings of ambivalence*

By Lars Eighner

**L**aw-abiding black and gay people have good reason to have mixed feelings about the police.

We want protection, not only from the crimes that could happen to anybody, but also from the hate crimes perpetrated by racists and homophobes. On the other hand we have experienced, or know someone who has experienced, police harassment, police entrapment, or even police violence because racism and homophobia exist in police departments.

When police visit one gay bar with a large black following three times in less than three weeks, ambivalence about the police tilts toward suspicion.

Uniformed officers of LAPD entered the Study in Hollywood shortly before closing Sunday morning April 15. They ordered the music turned down and the lights turned up.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Customers were told to stand with their hands flat on the bar. That was the third time since March 29.

On a previous visit police checked IDs and arrested seven customers for outstanding traffic warrants. Another time police searched customers for weapons.

Three times seemed like a pattern to customer Jay Bradshaw. He asked officers why they had entered the bar. Police said they were looking for someone.

Bradshaw believes the police visits were related to an incident that occurred late in 1988. The Lodge, another bar owned by Study proprietor Stu Zinn, was shut down briefly in December for alleged occupancy violations. Bradshaw believes that a subsequent meeting between owner Zinn, five city councilmembers and representatives of the LAPD embarrassed LAPD. Bradshaw suspects that events at the Study are LAPD's retaliation.

But I visited the study and other customers had other theories.

"It's a bad corner, man," a black customer told me.

"No question about it. They are dealing drugs out there."

"Out there" is the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Western Avenue. It is a bad corner. They are dealing drugs out there. The #1 bus from downtown stops on Hollywood Blvd. and around the corner on Western the #207 bound for Western and Imperial Highway boards passengers. At night, especially on a weekend night, large numbers of people, mostly black, stand, sit and lean on things along Western.

Many of them are waiting for the bus, but when the #207 bus departs, many also remain. Some who remain are just hanging out, some are drinking, some are panhandling, some are waiting at the window of TY&T Burgers at the corner, few seem to be hooking or hustling but, yes indeed, some are dealing drugs.

Local residents think Hollywood and Western is the worst corner in Hollywood. They recall an apparently random stab-

bing at the bus stop—the victim had been sleeping on the bench. They refer vaguely to a number of shootings and muggings.

When I observed the area a beer bottle flew out of a passing car, bounced off a wall, and shattered a couple of feet away. It could have happened anywhere. But the perception is that it is the sort of thing more likely to happen at Hollywood and Western.

**T**he Study is on Western, several hundred feet north of Hollywood Blvd., set back on a partially fenced lot. Like many gay bars, the Study does not look like much from the outside.

Inside, the Study seems very far away from the corner of Hollywood and Western. Although it is a small bar, it is as nicely furnished as any gay bar in Hollywood. The walls are adorned with smartly framed art prints and prominently displayed safe sex posters. The felt on the pool table is like new. There are about a half-dozen small tables, a modest but adequate bar, and a cozy conversation area wrapped around a free-standing fireplace. The red leather-like upholstery is well-maintained—after an hour I had found only one rip. The floor needed sweeping, but it was after 11 on a Friday night and the bar was busy.

The big difference between the Study and the street was the people. The crowd was attractive, masculine, about two-thirds black, mostly mid-20s to early 30s, and well-dressed in a casual vein. The obvious hustlers and tacky drags

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*"There's a real problem on the street. The police ought to deal with it on the street. But since they won't, let 'em come in here. They'll see we have nothing to hide."*

---

common in some other Hollywood bars were not evident at the Study.

A large sign over the bar reads: "No loitering. 3 drink Minimum. No Exceptions." I could not drink three cocktails the way they are poured at the Study, but a customer explained the sign was meant to discourage people from the street who might otherwise duck in and out of the bar.

Customers I talked to were ambivalent about the police visits, but the black patrons were, if anything, less suspicious of the police.



"There's a real problem on the street," one black customer told me. "They [the police] ought to deal with it on the street. But since they won't, let 'em come in here. They'll see we have nothing to hide. And folks out there [on the street] might start thinking it's a bad idea to come in here."

Nearly everyone I spoke to expressed doubts that the police visits to the Study were related to the occupancy citation of the Lodge. They pointed out that the Lodge had experienced no further problems and neither had My House, another Hollywood bar owned by Zinn.

A white customer thought the police simply saw black people going into the Study. "We can tell who belongs here and who doesn't," the customer said. "The police could tell the difference too if they could get past skin color."

**B**ut without talking to the individuals, how could police make that distinction if not on the basis of something as superficial as clothing.

I observed a young man hop off the curb and exchange something with a passenger who was in a car southbound on Western Ave. The man was somewhat younger than most of the Study's customers. He was dressed in a white T-shirt, high school jacket, jeans, and sneakers—all apparently clean. Since the Study's clientele are mostly masculine, the young man differed from them in no obvious mannerism.

The difference *was* clothing. Could, would, should the police notice that in a mixed gay bar blacks dress up and whites dress down? Should police stick their heads in gay bar; see the turtlenecks, slacks, polished shoes, and sports

jackets; and shrug off a promising lead if they had one?

On the other hand, if I could see the delivery being made, why could plainclothes police not see that same thing and deal with the problem on the street.

There still is no answer to why the police visited the Study three times in less than three weeks. Customer Bradshaw says he complained verbally to Nina Greenberg in Councilmember Mike Woo's Silverlake office and Sgt. Dravidzius of LAPD's Hollywood office on Wilcox.

Greenberg told me that since uniformed officers were involved she supposed the incidents were not vice operations. She referred inquiries to Brian Galbraith of the community relations office of LAPD in Hollywood.

Galbraith told me that the matter was being treated as an inquiry and was being handled by Sgt. Dravidzius's inquiry was not complete as BLK went to press. If there was a legitimate law enforcement objective of the incidents it hardly matters now what it was.

A pleasant place like the Study could not exist long in the environment of Hollywood and Western without a police presence in the area. People at the Study know that.

But they also know LAPD has a history of racism and homophobia and for whatever reason LAPD is not dealing with the problems of the street on the street.

Since a uniformed police operation is no secret to begin with, why are officers not more forthcoming about what they are looking for and why at the time of these incidents? Police might be surprised by the willingness of people to cooperate with legitimate law enforcement objectives.

Arrogance on the part of the police can only perpetuate our ambivalence.

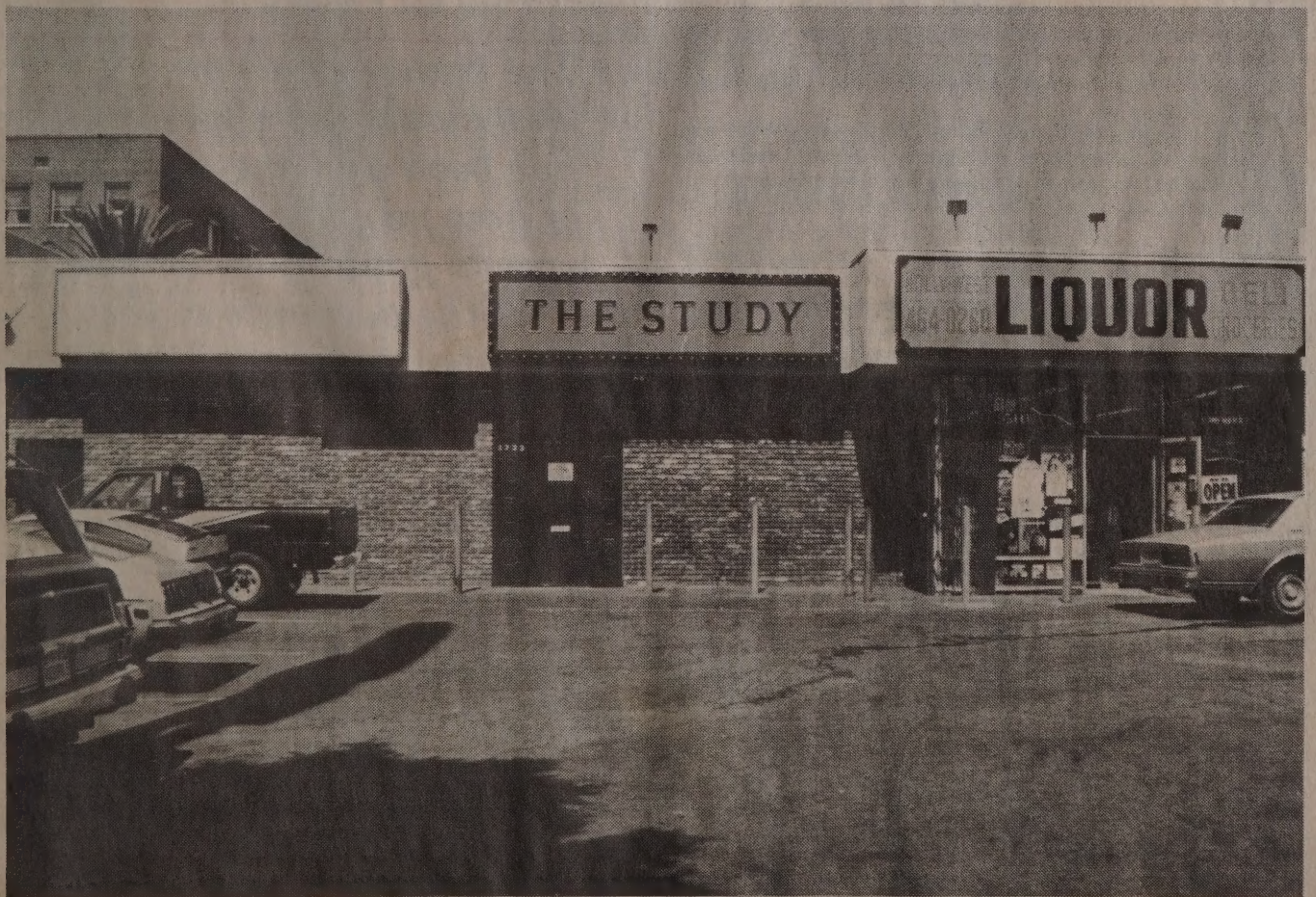


Photo by Alan Bell



# The Truth about Stonewall

*Lesbians, gay men of color, drag queens  
and young people start modern gay movement*

By Mark Haile

**J**une 27, 1969, The Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street, in Greenwich Village, New York.

It was described as "the hairpin drop heard around the world," in reference to a 1960s expression for revealing you were gay before "coming out of the closet" was fashionable. Until Stonewall, Gay people were either "out" only to each other, or they were yanked out of the closet by scandal, destined for shame, humiliation, and ruin.

But Stonewall changed all of that. Twenty years ago this month, something happened in New York's West Village at what had been a shabby little bar off Sheridan Square that would influence nearly every lesbian and gay man living in America today.

The impact of what happened at the Stonewall Inn has been overrated, some critics say. Yet veterans of the Gay Pride movement note with amusement how many people claim to have been there and to have been part of the riots of June 27, 28 and 29.

In the retelling of the tale, history has become myth and desperation is remembered as romance. Changes and omissions, whether accidental or intentional, are nothing new in American history when it concerns people of color, gays, or women.

And the Stonewall legend does concern people of color. If that sultry weekend's street theater is to be regarded as the launching pad of the modern gay rights movement, then it is essential for us to know the key players who started it all: drag queens, hustlers, jailbait juveniles, and gay men and lesbians of color. The outcasts of gay life thus showed homosexual America how to make a fist, fight back, and win self-respect.

**T**he Stonewall was certainly not the first bar of its kind to cater to the "fringe element" of the gay community. Interracial bars and bars geared toward blacks and Latinos in New York City had been around for well over 50 years.

In the decade prior to the depression, Harlem enjoyed the title of Negro capital of the United States—home to the nation's most talented black artists, writers and musicians. Clubs like the Hot Cha and Lulu Belle's rivaled the best bars of today's gay scene. The Savoy Ballroom, originally at Lenox and 140th Street was the hot spot in the 1920s for the black gay drag balls that had been in existence since the 1890s, making them the longest continuously operating gay event in American History.

By that muggy summer of 1969, however, Harlem was scarcely the mecca for America's black cultural elite.

It was hot and humid day and night that Friday, June 27, as it had been and would be for weeks on end.

Gay bars had a short life span in the 60s. Election year

would precipitate raids on a regular basis. Developers used heavy handed methods to get hold of desirable property. The mob looked on popular gay bars as targets for takeover. Rarely was there any resistance to any of these threats—especially when bar owners also had to pay out to the cop on the beat just to stay in existence.

Bars with a black lesbian and gay following opened and closed on a regular basis all across New York City. In the Village, they were usually racially mixed gay bars like the Grapevine or Gianni's, while the clubs up in Harlem were usually all black, but tended to blend straight and gay clientele, like Snooky's, the Purple Manor, or the Dug-out, to name a few.

Jack, a dapper, white-haired gentleman, fondly remembers bars where, "everyone wore a tie. You had to be so careful in those days. If you were a stranger in the bar, no

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*The transformation of the  
Stonewall Riots to legend  
has been a prime example  
of how people of color and  
women got left out of many  
of the accounts of the  
incidents that took place  
that weekend.*

---

one would speak to you until they checked you out. Then once they knew you were okay, they were the friendliest people you could ever meet."

Larry Boxx, who ran the Stonewall Inn at the time of the riots, worked in or owned more than a dozen bars in his days in the club business in New York. He remembers the era before the riots at the Stonewall vividly.

"I was arrested 109 times, with only three convictions. It was a game. Police would check up on business licenses constantly. "There was a Lt. Pine who really had it in for the gay clubs," he recalls. Lt. Pine was a deputy inspector from the Public Morals section of the first division of the New York Police Department. A typical violation would be for something like no soap in the men's room, or an unlicensed coat check room.

"I once had eight raids in one night. I had a charge account with bail bondsman," he recalls. Standard procedure was to take in the manager on duty or a staff member down to the precinct, who would usually be processed and back to work in a few minutes. "You took a token bust," Boxx recalls.



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A black Los Angeles psychologist remembers an experience in a gay club before the Stonewall Riots. "You couldn't even touch another man in those days! A drag queen tried to give me a kiss once, and the undercover cop went "Whoosh!" and snatched her up and hauled her off to jail. I didn't have any I.D. on me. I was under age, and when the police weren't looking, the other queens hissed at me, "Run, run like your life depends on it." And I did, too. We couldn't dance together, you know. There was a big light on top of the

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## *Bars with a black lesbian and gay following opened and closed on a regular basis all across New York.*

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jukebox. When the police would come through the door, this bright light would come on, and everybody would grab the nearest girl to dance with, that's just the way it was."

At one point in 1969, there was only one dance bar for gays in Manhattan. "Six months in the bar business was a long time," Boxx recounts.

**T**he Stonewall Inn scarcely reflected the refinement of the gay bars that had been evident during the Harlem Renaissance. As dance bars today go, it was fairly simple.

In the 1950s, according to Boxx, the Stonewall Inn had been an elegant dinner house, with an enormous flagstone fire place. A long bar dominated the far right wall of the two adjoining store fronts that made up the interior.

The Stonewall Inn had gone through a succession of owners through the late 50s and 60s as the area around Sheridan Square fell upon hard times.

The bar eventually garnered a gay clientele, but not of the sportcoat and tie set. Even as the riots were getting under way that humid weekend in defense of the Stonewall, there was another effort underway elsewhere to start a boycott against it and other bars like it. Shabby gay bars like the Stonewall were perceived by some as more of a threat to the health and self-image of lesbians and gays than the safe haven from persecution they offered.

Long time Christopher Street bookstore owner Craig Rodwell says that between the police and the Mafia, no one could open a gay bar in 1968 with "a healthy social atmosphere." The Stonewall was suspected of being responsible for a local outbreak of hepatitis because bar backs didn't bother washing the glasses.

**T**he crowd that weekend was anything but politically charged. But it was hot. Over 20,000 people had waited up to four hours each in searing heat to view the body of Judy Garland at the Frank & Campbell Funeral Home at 81st and Madison Ave. Thousands of blacks came to pay their respects, too—young and old, men and women. Many people took Friday off to go see her. Thousands thronged the street afterwards, with time on their hands and nothing to do.

When Lt. Pine and the seven other policemen from the Public Morals Section set out that night for the Stonewall, it was to have been a routine raid like the several others that had preceded it in the weeks before.

As Boxx recalls, the only thing actually amiss at the Stonewall Inn was a \$20 tax stamp that the bar was supposed to have on record. The search warrant brought by Pine

was for investigation of reports that liquor was being sold illegally, that the club was operating without a license.

Sometime after Friday night became early Saturday morning, the police began their raid of the bar they referred to as "well known for its homosexual clientele." Upon serving the warrant, detectives began taking inventory of the liquor they were about to confiscate. Patrons were usually allowed to leave after their I.D. was checked, except those "suspected of cross-dressing," who were to be taken to the precinct for questioning and eventually released.

Those permitted out of the bar by the police milled about outside, standing by Sheridan Square, waiting for friends still inside the bar.

There had been about 200 people inside the bar, but now the crowd had doubled in size as passers-by watched the show, and those exiting the bar shouted and shrieked to their friends, posing grandly.

Some bar patrons were apprehensive because of events surrounding raids days earlier. Among those who had been arrested was a young South American student, fearful of being deported if it were discovered he was gay. Despondent, he leapt from the third story window while in custody at the Charles Street Police Station, impaling himself on the spikes atop the facility's surrounding wrought iron fence. Although he survived the fall, he was maimed for life, and sensational photographs of the incident made the front pages of the New York tabloids. For the homosexual community, it inflamed an already long, hot summer. It was prominent in the conversations of those waiting for their friends still inside the bar.

The mood shifted quickly when three drag queens were taken from the bar and placed in the police paddy wagon. The crowd began shouting at the policemen, but the real confrontation was yet to take place.

The next person taken out of the bar was a lesbian, who struggled with the police every step of the way. This seemed to be the visual cue that motivated the crowd, for no one person led the charge. No one directed the energy of the throng.

What happened next was described as "a rampage" by the *New York Times*. The crowd started throwing everything and anything they could get their hands on at the startled police.

Larry Boxx, remembers that there was a loose parking meter that was uprooted easily as the policemen barricaded themselves inside the bar amid a shower of pennies, bricks and bottles.

Tactical patrol force units, a new anti-riot squad designed

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## *The only thing actually amiss at the Stonewall Inn was a \$20 tax stamp that the bar was supposed to have on record.*

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specifically for use in Harlem, were brought in to clear the area.

Eventually, thirteen people were arrested that evening with four policemen reported slightly injured.

**W**hen the Stonewall reopened the following night serving only soft drinks, the tactical patrol force units appeared shortly after 2 a.m. to clear the crowd that had gathered along Christopher Street and in Sheridan Square.



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7:00 P.M.

Plummer Park:

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7:30 P.M.

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**Hot, Horny & Healthy!** is sponsored by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black And White Men Together and by the Los Angeles Chapter of Black And White Men Together.

This program is funded nationally by a grant from the United States Centers for Disease Control and locally by a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

For more information call:

**BWMT / Los Angeles: 213/664-4716**



The riot squad, linked arm to arm the width of the street, dispersed the crowd between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Those who didn't escape down the numerous, narrow alleys and side streets in time were clubbed and shoved to the ground. This time, only three people were arrested, but many

more were injured or involved in confrontation as the police broke ranks and charged into the crowd.

On the second night of fighting with the police, gay graffiti appeared all over the street and the shouts included, "Gay Power." Numerous flyers were passed out among the crowd.

## Major Events in Black Gay History Since Stonewall

### 1969

⇒ Raid on Stonewall Inn in N.Y., transformed gay movement to street radicalism as black and Latino drag queens/hustlers fought cops.

### 1970

⇒ Black Panther leader Huey Newton supports gay lib, saying "perhaps a homosexual could be the most revolutionary." But some friction occurs between gays and more macho Panthers at Washington, D.C. revolutionary convention.

### 1971

⇒ Black Assemblyman Willie Brown pledges to work for gay rights law in California.

### 1973

⇒ Congresswoman Barbara Jordan's majestic voice spellbinds America during Watergate.

### 1974

⇒ Sierra Domino, nation's largest studio of black gay erotica established in San Francisco.

⇒ *Loving Her*, by Ann Allen Shockley, published.

⇒ *Ruby* by Rosa Guy, the first lesbian teen novel.

⇒ MCC starts a chiefly non-gay congregation in Zaria, Nigeria, as a result

of an attack on MCC in a Jehovah's Witness magazine.

### 1975

⇒ Salsa Soul Sisters founded in N.Y., first lesbian West Indian and black women's group.

⇒ Willie Brown's repeal of California sodomy statute goes into effect.

### 1978

⇒ Black gays invited to White House for meeting.

⇒ National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays founded.

### 1979

⇒ First Third World Conference held in Washington, D.C., largest gathering of black gays.

⇒ First NCBLG Conference.

⇒ Baldwin's *Just Above My Head* includes black gay lovers, affirmatively portrayed.

### 1980

⇒ Cuban Refugee Project sponsored by MCC settles black Cubans in U.S.

⇒ Mel Boozer is first black nominated for vice president at a Democratic convention.

⇒ Navy anti-lesbian witchhunting aboard the U.S.S. Norton Sound. Whites freed, blacks convicted.

⇒ Black and White Men Together chapters started

in many cities.

### 1981

⇒ First black man in U.S. is diagnosed at UCLA with what is later to become known as AIDS.

⇒ Third World Women's Archives founded in Brooklyn, N.Y.

⇒ Rev. Renee McCoy founds Harlem MCC.

⇒ Black Heart Collective publishes first collection of black gale male literature.

⇒ Barbara Smith founds Kitchen Table Press.

### 1982

⇒ Alice Walker produces the Pulitzer Prize winning *The Color Purple*.

⇒ N.Y. police wreck "Blues," a black gay bar.

⇒ Ex-Dodger Glen Burke comes out.

⇒ Evangelical scholar Dr. James Tinney of Howard University, founds Faith Temple in Washington, D.C., the largest independent black gay congregation.

### 1983

⇒ *Zami: a New Spelling of My Name* establishes Audre Lorde as major American author.

⇒ James Baldwin, America's greatest living male author, comes out at BWMT/N.Y. event.

⇒ BWMT protests gay bar carding across U.S.; BWMT/Atlanta gets city to adopt anti-carding ordinance.

### 1985

⇒ Bayard Rustin breaks silence on his gayness when he addresses NABWMT convention.

⇒ Minority AIDS Project, first and largest community-based black gay AIDS organization formed in Los Angeles by Rev. Carl Bean.

### 1986

⇒ International Lesbian and Gay People of Color Conference held in Los Angeles.

⇒ National Minority AIDS Council forms in Washington, D.C.

### 1987

⇒ Rev. Carl Bean gets NAACP Image Award for AIDS work.

### 1988

⇒ Rev. Jesse Jackson, speaking at Catch One Disco in L.A., becomes the first major presidential candidate to address a black gay audience.

⇒ "Coming Home for Friends," first major fundraiser by black music industry for black PWAs.

⇒ NABWMT receives first national grant to a gay organization to do AIDS education for black gays.

⇒ Bevan Dufty elected co-chair of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles, largest local gay PAC in America.



Even though they started out as an unruly mob without direction or leadership, something emerged and electrified those who were present. The lesbians and gay men who filled Sheridan Square became empowered by their own hands.

The Inn remained closed after the riots, covered with slogans such as "Gay Rights Now" and "Legalize Gay Bars."

In 1972, Larry Boxx had to leave New York City because of investigations by the Knapp Commission on Police Corruption in the New York Police Force. Ironically, Boxx served as Grand Marshall of the Long Beach, California Gay Pride Parade held May 21, in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

**T**here were gay organizations already in existence at the time of Stonewall: the cautious and conservative Mat-tachine Society, with chapters nationwide, and the more radical Student Homophile League at Columbia University. Still, it took those who had the least to lose, the black and

*The next person taken from the bar was a lesbian, who struggled with the police every step of the way. This seemed to be the visual cue that motivated the crowd.*

Latino drag queens, to forego "acceptable behavior" and reject obedience to authority to become catalysts for the birth of the modern gay pride movement.

Their model was neither the hesitant nor the rash assertion of their self-proclaimed leadership, but the fury, desperation and pride aborning of the militant black power movement. In 1969, many were giving up powerlessness. And they were, or were following African Americans.

Since the Stonewall Riots, many organizations have used the Stonewall name in tribute to the importance of the event. Many individuals active in the lesbian and gay movement remember when they first heard about the Stonewall Riots, and a few even have authentic personal recollections of the events. Yet no group or individual can claim responsibility for the resistance offered that weekend. The credit belongs to a handful of people who have since been forgotten, jettisoned by a movement that more and more reflects conformity as the years pass.

The names of those who fought that first battle for gay rights have largely passed into obscurity, yet their legacy has been embraced by the entire nation's gay community, with a profound effect on the course of the lives of millions. When former President Reagan used the phrase that he "came out of the closet" (as an opera lover) on nationwide television a few years ago, he had no idea of the origin of the expression he was using, so popular has its usage become.

As Jane Rule said, lesbians and gay men have a gift of love to give to the entire world, so, too, did those anonymous black and Latino gay men and lesbians at the Stonewall Inn, give the precious gift of life to an entire movement.

When the movement began the rule was inclusiveness rather than separation, so unlike many of today's lesbian and gay institutions. Hopefully the lesbian and gay community will become ever more aware of its roots, that the spirit of the first warriors of our modern movement will offer guidance and aid in the battles yet to come.

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# It Happened to Me

*Brawny bodybuilder describes how he got AIDS  
and how he denied it*

**By Roger V. Pamplin, Jr.**

*Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. is a big, strong guy. He's 6 foot, weighs 210 pounds and is 28 years old. He looks like he was born to carry a football. For four years, he was in the Navy. Now, this native of Chicago is a board member of the National Organization of People with AIDS and the Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles. He's a sought after speaker having appeared before audiences in the Los Angeles Unified School District, L.A. County/USC Medical Center, L.A. County Regional Department for the Developmentally Disabled, plus various church and civic organizations. His subject? The clear and present danger of AIDS.*

**H**ere I sit at County/USC Hospital hating the existence of a very small creature. An organism so small it takes a microscope to see it. So deadly, it has claimed thousands of people's lives, many of my friends included. A little fiend who has changed my life in so many ways that I can't keep count. This tiny killer is AIDS and I'm a PWA.

I hate it with all my heart. I sit here crying and thinking why didn't I listen to the news when word of the disease first surfaced? I'm an intelligent, young, black man with a good education. All I had to do was open my eyes and read the information that was there. Or just open my ears and listen.

But I didn't.

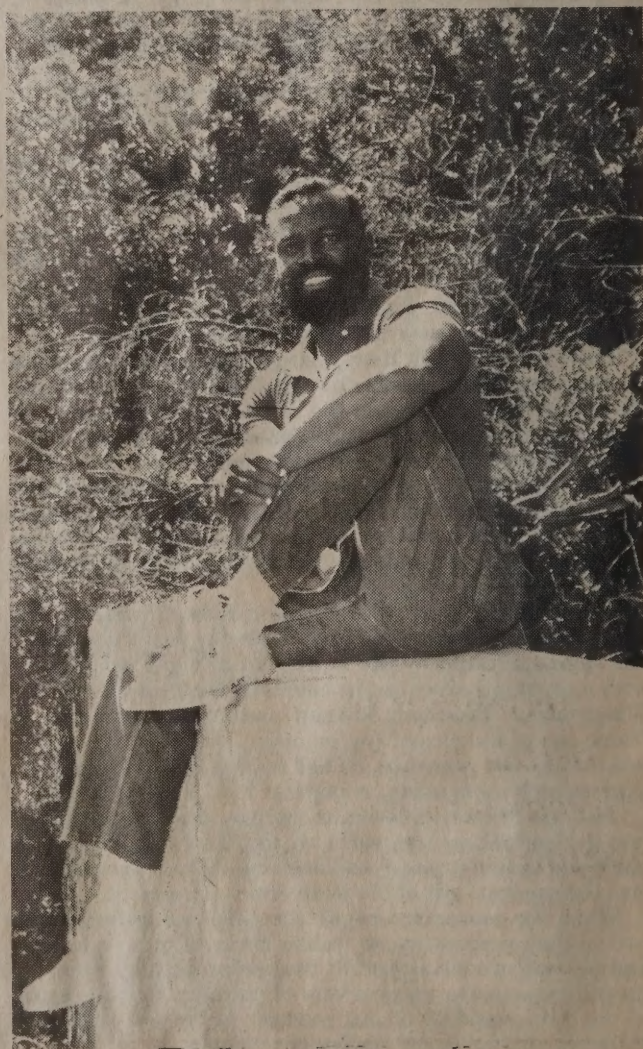
Oh, I'm intelligent all right, too smart for my own damn good. You see, I thought like a whole lot of people think, it'll never happen to me, or that only happens to white limp-wristed gays, or (this is the *big* excuse) I'm always a top, never a bottom man. So I continued my ways, having sex with people I didn't know, working the clubs and adult bookstores, having three-way and four-way sex, smoking dope and drinking until I was so high that all I cared about was who I could have that night. And I figured, why use condoms? I'm safe (I'm a top, remember?). Besides condoms are a pain and I like the feel of flesh against flesh.

I wished I had listened and believed. Here I sit at L.A. County/USC Hospital with my third bout of PCP and a host of other medical problems, to bear witness that anyone can catch AIDS.

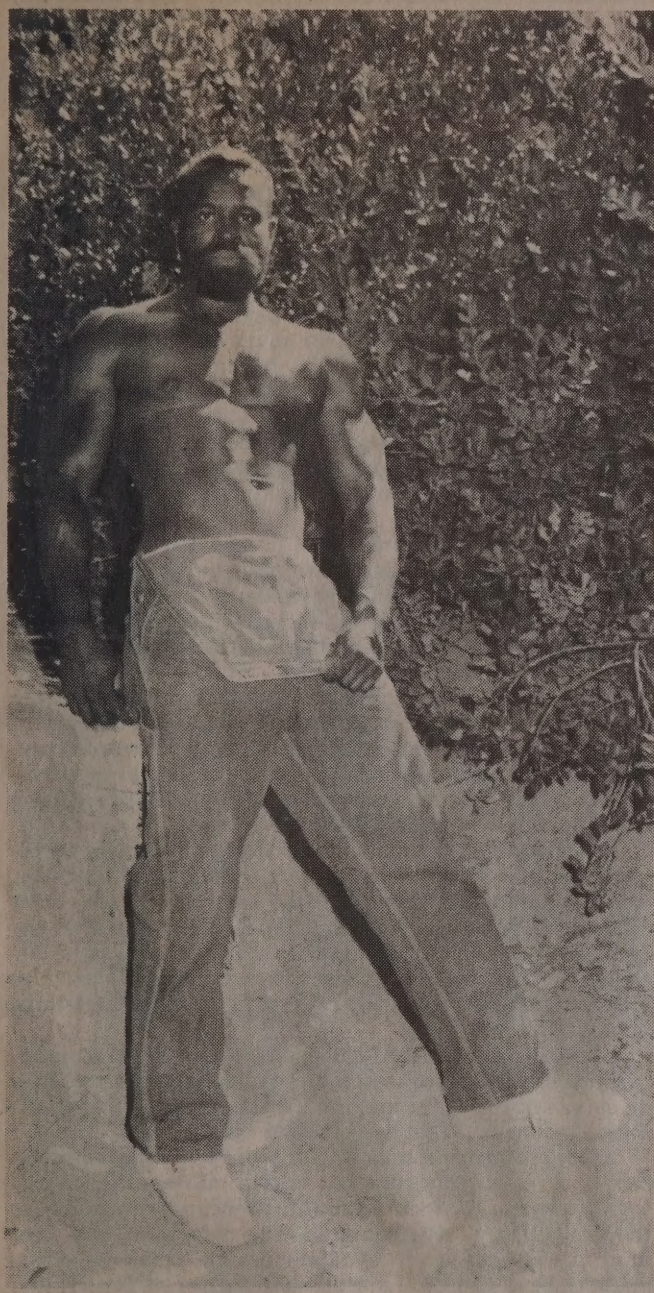
**I** was diagnosed with AIDS in June of 1987. My lover (at that time) and myself had been sick with flu-like symptoms for about two months. I went to a neighborhood clinic, while my lover tried home remedies. Because I didn't fit the stereotype of a gay man or an IV drug user, my doctor didn't suggest that I take an HIV test. He said that all I had was a bad case of bronchitis and prescribed an antibiotic. The medicine helped some and I got a little better, but I was still weak and still couldn't breathe well. I was relieved it wasn't the Big A, and went back to work.

My friend continued to deteriorate before my eyes, but refused to seek medical attention, until the night I had to drag him physically to the emergency room. While he was in the hospital, for the first time, I sat and thought rationally. Colds, flu and bronchitis don't last for three and four months, and because of my past behaviors, if anyone was a candidate for AIDS it was me.

So I went and had the HIV test and it came back positive. At about the same time, my friend was diagnosed with ARC. I received counseling at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and was told not to be discouraged because being HIV positive didn't mean I would come down with







*So I continued having sex with people I didn't know, working the clubs and adult bookstores, having three-way and four-way sex, smoking dope and drinking until I was so high all I cared about was who I could have that night.*

## AIDS.

So once again I held on to my denial of having AIDS. My friend eventually got better and was released from the hospital, while I had embarked on my acting career. I landed a small part in a movie and had just gotten the lead role in an off-Hollywood play. I was on the top of the world and felt everything was going to be all right.

During rehearsals for the play, I began getting sick again. So I went back to the same doctor. This time, I was honest and told him about my positive test results. He looked me square in the eye and said that he could no longer help me and that I should go to the hospital. The first words out of my mouth were, "Can't that wait? The play opens within the week." The doc said, "No. Go immediately."

Off I went to County General Emergency Room, where I was admitted within an hour (a hospital record). A few days later, I got the news from my new doctor. He said, "Mr. Pamplin, you have PCP pneumonia, which is one of the two major diseases that accompany AIDS." In essence, he said, "You have the Big A."

Two weeks and a holiday later (I spent 4th of July in the hospital), I was released from the hospital and sent home. As I lay in my bed still sick from PCP and the medicines, it hit me. I have AIDS. I am going to die. Not just die, but waste away, die a horrible, painful death. I thought I'd never see my kids grow up, or love someone again, or play in the park with my dogs again. I was scared and angry at the whole world, especially God.

**I**t's been almost two years since then, and I'm still here. My friend, Robbie, wasn't so lucky. He died from PCP two months after his release from the hospital. I'm still here only through the grace of God. I have the best support system a person could have.

First and foremost, I have God in my life. Before I didn't. Then there is my family in Chicago. And my spouse, Deryl, who sticks by me through thick and thin. Then there is my best buddy, Greg Hill, and a host of other friends, too numerous to name. Besides all these loved ones. I have my will to fight, to survive.

Oh, believe me, I get tired of being sick and wish God would call me on home. I've even considered suicide (even to this day). The only reason I haven't done it is because of my strong belief that God isn't done with me yet—that He (or She) still has work for me to accomplish. Maybe it's to educate someone about the HIV infection to keep them from making the same mistakes that I did, or maybe it's to help another PWA through hard times. I really don't know. It's all God's will. I continue to pray that God keeps using me in whatever ways possible—that he continues to give me strength and guidance on this journey through life.

I didn't always feel this way. At first I was angry with God. I mean, what kind of God creates such a monster? What kind of God lets so many people die? And then there is the question we've all asked at one time or another: Why Me? Why me, God? Have I been that bad? Since then I've thought: Why not me? I had an active choice in the matter. I decided not to listen and modify my behavior. So I can't blame anyone but myself: Roger Pamplin. Besides maybe God has a purpose behind this whole thing. Maybe He is using me to reach out to others. I hope so. I wouldn't wish this disease on my worst enemy.

I hope you listen carefully to my story and take heed. I hope you realize anyone can catch AIDS. Protect yourself with knowledge and condoms. And please change your sexual behavior. AIDS is real and it's gonna be around awhile. Remember that blacks (and others) do catch AIDS. I know. I'm a witness.



## U.S. Appeals Court Tells Army to Reinstate Black Soldier but Avoids Hearing Constitutional Issue

SAN FRANCISCO (LAT, NYT)—In a 7-4 decision, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Army to reinstate black openly gay Sgt. Perry Watkins who was discharged for homosexuality in 1984, but refused to rule on whether military regulations against gay and lesbian soldiers are unconstitutional.

Ruling on the narrow issue of the 1984 discharge, the court majority held that it did not need to decide that Watkins's constitutional rights had been violated before ordering him reinstated.

"This is a case where equity cries out and demands that the Army be estopped from refusing to re-enlist Watkins on the basis of his homosexuality," Judge Harry Pregerson wrote for the majority.

"To estop the Army from denying Sgt. Watkins's re-enlistment on the basis of his homosexuality would not disrupt any important military policies or adversely affect internal affairs," the majority said. "It would simply require the Army to continue to do what it has repeatedly done for 14 years with only positive results: re-enlist a single soldier with an exceptionally outstanding military record."

While noting that the courts cannot review all actions by the military, the ruling said the Army had "plainly acted affirmatively in admitting, re-classifying, re-enlisting, retaining and promoting" Sgt. Watkins.

By law, the courts are limited in the cases in which they can interfere with governmental decision-making. Under the doctrine of equitable estoppel, a court must find that the government has engaged in affirmative misconduct, that the government's misconduct will cause a serious injustice and that stopping the government from continuing the wrong will not cause undue harm to the public interest.

In using those criteria, the court adopted a less stringent test for judicial intervention in military affairs than has traditionally been applied—a test which has historically allowed such intervention only when constitutional rights have been violated. Thus, the majority neatly sidestepped the constitutional issue, but was still able to order Watkins reinstated.

But four judges dissented, in large part questioning the majority's exercise of judicial review over military decision-making. Judge Cynthia Holcomb called the decision an "unwarranted application of common law principles to matters within the military's expertise."

"There is no doubt that the majority's intrusion into military affairs unjustified by important federal interests will have a disruptive effect on military discipline," she wrote, accusing the majority of simply ordering Watkins reinstated because of a "steadfast desire" to avoid deciding the constitutional issues in the case.

Indeed, Watkins's attorney, James Lobzenz called the court's failure to uphold a earlier ruling by a three-judge panel that provided broad constitutional protections for gay men and lesbians in the military "a blessing in disguise."

"If they had decided the case favorably to Sgt. Watkins on those grounds, the chances would be greatly increased, to a near certainty, that the case would go to the U.S. Supreme Court, and who knows what would happen there," he said.

Only two of the concurring judges, William A. Norris and William C. Canby, held that the court should have granted

Watkins's appeal on the basis of the right of equal protection. The two judges represented the majority when the three-judge panel of the court issued its ruling in February.

"The Army's regulations violate the constitution guarantee of equal protection of the laws because they discriminate against persons of homosexual orientation, a suspect class, and because the regulations are not necessary to promote a legitimate compelling governmental interest," Judge Norris wrote.

An Army spokesperson said it was too early to say whether the reinstatement order would be appealed and declined to comment on the opinion in detail. Lobzenz said that Watkins, who currently works for the United States Forestry Service in Seattle, would re-enlist if the Justice Department decides not to appeal the ruling.

Watkins, 40, stated on his pre-induction medical form at the time he was drafted in 1967 that he had homosexual tendencies. He again identified himself as gay on several occasions throughout his Army service, and was allowed to re-enlist, despite the Army's avowed policy against recruiting or retaining gay men and lesbians.

In evaluations throughout his military service, supervisors praised Watkins for doing "a fantastic job." He was, one commanding officer said, "the best clerk I have ever known." Watkins was recommended for discharge after the Army drafted revised regulations in 1981 mandating the discharge of all homosexuals, regardless of merit. He sued for reinstatement and the Army retirement benefits he claimed to have earned.

Lobzenz compared the legal doctrine used by the majority to promising a child dessert if he eats his carrots then, after he eats his carrots, telling him the parent has changed his mind, and he won't get dessert after all.

"If the government tells you for years and years, we don't care if you're gay, it's not a bar to your military career, and then you spend 15 years of your life in the military, and then they said, 'Hey, we changed our mind, you're gone,' that's not fair," the lawyer said. By applying the doctrine to the military, he went on, the court broadened its own jurisdiction over military affairs, at least in the 9th Circuit.

The ruling does not affect the cases of other gay men and lesbians discharged from the military that are currently pending in various courts on constitutional grounds.

## L.A. Gets New Magazine

LOS ANGELES—*The Real Read*, a new bimonthly publication for black lesbians and gay men, published its debut issue last month. Edited by long-time activist Ron Grayson and Cleo Manago, co-founders of Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice, the premiere issue featured a number of articles on the 1988 and 1989 Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conferences as well as other subjects, including the late Joe Beam, Ida Wells-Barnett, Earthlife and AIDS. The 44-page publication also included cartoons and poetry.

*The Real Read* can be contacted at Box 29870, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Their phone number is 213-664-0234 or 213-225-6769.



## Curtis Tucker Jr. Gets MECLA Award for Dad

LOS ANGELES—California Assemblyman Curtis Tucker, Sr. was posthumously honored at the 12th Annual Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) awards dinner on May 13. The special tribute was accepted by Curtis Tucker, Jr. who was elected to succeed his father as assemblyman in February representing the Inglewood area.

The senior Tucker was honored for his steadfast and often feisty support for AIDS issues in the Assembly Health Committee, which he chaired until his death last November.

MECLA's co-chair, Bevan Dufty, is the gay fundraising organization's only African American member. Other black politicians in attendance at the \$250-a-plate affair were Los Angeles City Councilman, Bob Farrell and Los Angeles School Boardmember, Rita Walters. State Senator Diane Watson was represented by her chief deputy, Charles Stewart.

## New L.A. Black Lesbian Panel to Meet Monthly

LOS ANGELES—Women who attended last month's planning meeting for a black lesbian conference have voted to meet regularly on the third Sunday of every month from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

The objective, according to Gini Morton, a planning meeting spokesperson, is "to create and renew bonding between black lesbians in California and nationally, empower and support black lesbians, [and assure] that the process of organizing and putting on the conference be inclusive."

Although the Conference will be open to all women regardless of race or sexual preference, planning meetings are open only to black lesbians. For further information, contact Deborah, the chairperson for June's meeting, at 213-969-8046.



As part of its "Hot, Horny and Healthy" workshop program, 20 men from around the country gathered in Los Angeles the weekend of May 26 to learn how to train others to become workshop trainers. Sponsored by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association, Black and White Men Together, the workshops show how safe sex can be both erotic and fun. Assembled for a group photo at the weekend's concluding picnic are (first row, from left) Kevin Jones; George Bellinger Jr.; Kim Sharp; Laverne Middleton; Harold Robinson; A. Billy S. Jones; (second row) John Teamer; Les Everett; Bobby Smith, West Coast coordinator; Leon White; Gavin Morrow-Hall; James Credle; (third row) Reginald Williams, project director; Tony Horne; Duncan Teague; Al Cunningham; R. J. Johnson; Roger Pamplin Jr.; Phill Wilson, health education trainer; and Eric Perez, East Coast coordinator.



# Winfrey Rumor Proves Untrue, Reporter Fired, Papers Removed; Beau Said to Reconsider Union

CHICAGO—A rumor that TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey caught her fiancé and her male hairdresser together in a compromising situation is apparently untrue. Reports confirm that Winfrey, boyfriend Stedman Graham and beautician André Walker were in separate locations at the time the alleged confrontation occurred.

The rumor has reportedly given Graham second thoughts about marrying the TV star and living in the "fishbowl" of public scrutiny, according to the *Star*. It has left him worried about the story's impact on his 12-year-old daughter, the paper reports.

The rumor first surfaced in print on May 14, when Ann Gerber included the following item in her "On the Town" column which appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times*: "Can it be true that the lover of one of our richest women was found in bed with her hairdresser when she returned early from a trip abroad? The battle that ensued brought her screaming out onto Lake Shore Drive, shocking her staid neighbors."

According to one unconfirmed report, the allegation, which surfaced in early May and spread through the streets of Chicago before being picked up by Gerber, had been concocted by a group of employees at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange "to see how fast a rumor could spread."

Eventually it spread to *Entertainment Tonight* where, on May 18, it was picked up and given national exposure. Reported TV anchorwoman Mary Hart: "Rumors claim the woman is popular talk show host Oprah Winfrey. They say she found boyfriend Stedman Graham in bed with her hairdresser in her Chicago condo." Hart did, however, take away what she gave by adding: "At this point we at *Entertainment Tonight* have uncovered nothing to suggest that it is true."

At first, the three steadfastly refused to dignify the gossip with a response. But as the rumor refused to die and culminated in the *Entertainment Tonight* report, the following day Winfrey made an on-air denial in front of her TV audience. Without specifying the details, she referred to "a rumor that I think deserves addressing" and added: "It is a vicious, malicious lie and no part of it, absolutely no part of it is true...I have chosen to speak up because this rumor has become so widespread and so vulgar that I just wanted to go on record and let you know that it is not true..."

She went on: "Those of you who are repeating it, those of you who are listening to it, those of you who will hear it for the first time and are now saying 'What is she talking about?' There is absolutely no truth whatsoever to any part of it. It is vulgar and I also believe that it is evil."

The rumor apparently mutated into several versions. In one, Winfrey walked into her condo at the Ritz-Carlton, caught her 33-year old fiancé in bed with her hairdresser, grabbed a butcher knife and stabbed Graham. According to this version, he was taken, bleeding, to the 15th floor of nearby Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The hospital has no record of Graham being treated.

In another version, the incident occurred at Graham's apartment.

In another version, Winfrey shot twice into the ceiling.

In another version, Winfrey shot Graham repeatedly.

In another version, Winfrey's trip abroad became a trip from the West Coast.

But the building's security guards have denied knowledge of any such incident, as have neighbors in surrounding buildings. Chicago police also have no record of any incident involving Winfrey or Graham.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reporter who put the story in

print has responded to the controversy by saying, "I'm very fond of Oprah, and I feel very badly about this. It all began with a blind item in my Sunday column." In her column three days later, Gerber denied the rumor mentioning Winfrey and Graham by name.

Nine days following her article, *Sun-Times* vice president and executive editor Kenneth Towers fired Gerber "because of basic differences between himself and Ms. Gerber regarding the journalistic standards used in producing her column."

## Los Angeles Panel OKs AIDS Training Funds

LOS ANGELES—City Council has unanimously approved a bill allocating \$600,000 for the recruitment and training of home health aides for PWAs and people with ARC (PWARCs). The two-year contract with Community Bilingual Home Health programs in Highland Park will be financed from the city's share of federal Job Training Partnership Act funding.

Trainees in the program will receive classroom instruction and clinical training leading to employment with home health agencies providing in-home care to PWAs and PWARCs.

Training will be offered at the following six sites around the city: Arroyo Vista Family Health Center (Highland Park); Westminster Neighborhood Center (South Central); Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center (Hollywood); West Hollywood Park; Minority AIDS Project (South Central) and El Proyeecto Del Barrio (San Fernando Valley).



"Don't come back telling me you fished all weekend on Fire Island unless you bring me back something to fry!"



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# Waters Tapped for Marshall in Pride Parade; Carl Bean, Virginia Uribe to Receive Top CSW Honors

By Mark Haile  
BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—The 1989 Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade will be led by Maxine Waters, black member of the California State Assembly, as Grand Marshall. Waters was selected for the honor in tribute to her tireless dedication in support of the lesbian and gay community.

The Christopher Street West parade is the third largest in California, with more than 300 vehicles and more than 1000 men, women and children marching. Nearly 300,000 spectators are expected to line Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood for the parade on Sunday, June 25. The procession will be carried live via satellite to cable TV stations across the United States.

The Christopher Street West Festival will honor Rev. Carl Bean of Unity Fellowship Church and Minority AIDS Project as Man of the Year, and Virginia Uribe, founder of Project 10, as Woman of the Year.

Rev. Bean will join Rev. Nancy Wilson, Rev. Ron and Sandy Scott, Rabbi Denise Eger, and other spiritual leaders of the lesbian and gay community in conducting an inter-denominational healing service for people with AIDS, ARC, HIV infection, and other illnesses on Saturday, June 24 at 3 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

For the first time, this year's celebration will include a fireworks show on Saturday evening at 10 p.m. The two days of festivities will also include a wide variety of non-stop entertainment on two stages, the largest open air disco in the country, and more than 250 booths offering information, food, arts and crafts, games and prizes.

Among participating organizations of special interest to the black lesbian and gay community are the Minority AIDS Project, Catch One Disco, Unity Fellowship Church, Connexus, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, Black and White Men Together/L.A., Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and BLK.

"It is an honor to be selected as the 1989 Grand Marshall for the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade," stated Assembly-member Waters upon the announcement. "The accomplishments of the lesbian and gay community have contributed



Maxine Waters

to the advancement of human rights throughout the world."

The eighth annual Run for Lesbian and Gay Pride will be held the Sunday prior to the parade on June 18 in Griffith Park.

The festival will open on Saturday, June 24 at noon, closing at midnight, re-opening on Sunday, June 25 from 10 am to 11 p.m.

The parade will step off at 12:30 p.m. from the corner of Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Boulevards, marching west to San Vicente Boulevard and West Hollywood Park, the site of the festival.

The 1988 parade and festival were able to provide more than \$100,000 through community grants to lesbian and gay organizations across Southern California.

## Ousted Members Form New Police Liaison Group

By L. Lloyd Jordan  
BLK Contributing Writer

LOS ANGELES—Members of minority oriented organizations and others have founded a new coalition to address law enforcement issues. The new group, Advocates for Better Law Enforcement (ABLE), intends to work with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Division in West Hollywood for recruitment of openly lesbian and gay officers and to oppose harassment of gay bars and individuals.

ABLE has been meeting in Silverlake since its founders were expelled from the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force (GLPATF) in April when Stonewall Democratic Club executive committee members seized control of the Task Force to re-install one of their members, Marshal Phillips, as co-chair. Rather than continue to challenge Phillips and the election process, expelled members decided to end the dispute by starting a rival coalition.

ABLE includes individual members as well as representa-

tives of Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos, Black and White Men Together and Harvey Milk Democratic Club. The founders hope they will be able to develop an acceptable gay recruitment and retention plan for LAPD, do a needs assessment of gay/police relations and document police harassment of gay civilians or officers. ABLE is already working with the City of West Hollywood on recruitment issues and has planned an open forum for early August.

Neither the old nor the new coalition is any longer discussing reconciliation. GLPATF's acting co-chairwoman, Ivy Bottini, who is also Stonewall's president, has publicly welcomed the new organization. Throughout the controversy she has maintained that she is willing to address all issues of concern to the expelled lesbians and gays of color, with the exception of Marshal Phillips' retention of the co-chairmanship.

"There is nothing that would lead me to believe that she even realizes what was done. The level of insensitivity is so great that I don't even think she gets it yet," said Mario Soliz-Marich, acting spokesman of ABLE.



# Harvey Milk Demo Club Leaves Cop Task Force

LOS ANGELES—The Southern California Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club announced that it had resigned its position on and withdrawn its support from the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force.

In a statement issued to the press and later published as an ad in *The News*, the club stated: "Through vote stacking and covert maneuvering, a totally unrepresentative 'leadership' faction has recently and illegitimately taken control and subverted the mission of the organization. The shameful events over the last few months have demonstrated a complete contempt on their part for issues of any peoples other than their cronies."

The statement continued: "The disgraceful actions of and derogatory comments from Task Force co-chair Marshal Phillips (also member, Stonewall Democratic Club Executive Committee) and interim co-chair Ivy Bottini (also president, Stonewall Democratic Club) have resulted in the perception of racism and elitism among participants and observers alike. The Harvey Milk Democratic Club cannot condone the actions of the 'leadership' nor can we abide the slightest hint of racism or ulterior motives."

The statement concluded: "Their conduct is indefensible, embarrassing, reprehensible, and totally intolerable in our community, and we at Harvey Milk Democratic Club refuse to accept it."

The Southern California Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club is one of the founding members of the new formed police liaison group, Advocates for Better Law Enforcement.

# Essex Hemphill Seeks Black Gay Manuscripts

PHILADELPHIA—Essex Hemphill, poet and publisher of Be Bop Books, Washington, D.C., will complete the editing of *Brother to Brother: New Writing by Black Gay Men* on which Joseph Beam was at work at the time of his death. Barbara Smith, writer and publisher of Kitchen Table Press will assist in the reading of submitted materials.

Manuscripts by black gay men about the black gay male experience are being sought.

Manuscripts may be submitted in the following forms: Essays and short fiction (up to 5,000 words), poetry (no more than five poems), brief excerpts from plays and novels, letters, journal entries, performance pieces, narratives and interviews.

Subjects of interest include: coming out, coping and intimate relationships, family interactions (particularly fathers), interactions with the communities in which we live, rural living, youth substance abuse, spousal abuse, the military, incarceration, the arts, gay activism, AIDS, oral histories regarding black gay life in previous decades, how to create positive self-images, male bonding/brotherhood, aging and erotica.

The deadline for submission of poetry and prose manuscripts has been extended to June 30, 1989.

All manuscripts must be typed and doubled-spaced (no exceptions) on 8-1/2"x 11" white paper with the contributor's name on each page. Contributors should also include their phone number. Manuscripts should be sent in duplicate, with sufficient return postage, to: Brother to Brother, Box 30024, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

# BLK VEIL

## PHILIP BLACKWELL

Philip Blackwell, 37, playwright, actor and athlete, died of complications from AIDS February 14 in N.Y. Raised in Minneapolis, he graduated from the University of Minnesota and earned his master's from Tufts in 1980. He was *The Advocate's* first black cover model in 1975. In the 1986 Gay Games II competition, Blackwell earned medals in long distance races. Blackwell co-founded the Twin Cities Black Theater Alliance and was vice president of Data Arts, Ltd. He is survived by his parents, sister and brother.

## DALLAS CLEMMONS

Dallas Clemmons was born June 28, 1951 and died May 14, 1989 in Clarksburg, Mississippi. A nurse, Clemmons lived in San Francisco and was a member of BWMT/SF. He is survived by his mother and grandmother.

## CHRISTOPHER DEANE

Christopher Deane died of complications from AIDS at the age of 39 on May 13 at Brownlie Hospice in Los Angeles. He held a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and sang opera. eep, resonant voice was a delight to the ear. A long time employee of the L.A. Public Library, he often participated in BWMT/LA activities. His resonant bass will be deeply missed.

## TROY JOHNSON

Gordon Troy Johnson died of complications from AIDS May 14, 1989 in Los Angeles. Born in Detroit, Johnson held a master's in social work from Arizona State University. He worked for Los Angeles County with the developmentally disabled, and had opened his own firm when he was diagnosed in 1988. Johnson had been active with NAACP and the Hollywood-Sunset Community Clinic. He is survived by his father, foster mother and lover of eight years, Bruce Coplen.

## ROBERT JOE HEWITT

Funeral services were held May 25, 1989 for Robert Joe Hewitt who died May 19, 1989 in Los Angeles at the age of 36. A licensed journeyman plumber, he graduated from Jordan High and attended Los Angeles City College. He is survived by his mother, wife, three children, two sisters, two brothers, nephews and nieces.

## ARTHUR LOMBARD

Arthur Lombard died in New Orleans on May 12, 1989 of complications from AIDS. He was 29. He is survived by his brother, Juan, among others.

## ERNESTO G. PHILPOTTS

Dr. Ernesto G. Philpotts died April 21 after living with AIDS for more than a year and a half. Philpotts, who was born March 11, 1948 in Colon City, Panama, worked with the Philadelphia Department of Health and Human Services for nearly nine years. He founded the Finesse Modeling School. Philpotts was an affiliate member of ADODI/Philadelphia, and was active in AIDS-related organizations, including We the People and the Burning Bush. The latter two are accepting donations in his memory.



# It's Gonna Be A Catch One Summer!

Memorial Day Weekend  
Summer Kick-Off!  
After Hours Party!  
Sunday, May 28

Catalina Boat Cruise!  
Friday, July 28

Christmas in July!  
Tuesday, July 18

PICO BEACH!  
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday  
beginning June 4!  
Come dressed to get wet!

July 4th!  
Holiday Weekend  
BLOW OUT!

Coming Home for Friends II  
The concert of the year!  
Minority AIDS Project benefit  
at the Shine  
Saturday, July 8

Juneteenth Celebration!  
Sunday, June 18

Support Catch One's  
Float & Burger Stand  
Gay Pride Week Festival  
West Hollywood  
June 24 & 25

## CATCH ONE DISCO

4067 W. PICO BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90019



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

By now everyone knows what our infallible sources in Chicago's Southside hair salons have been telling us for weeks: poor, dear **Oprah** could not possibly have caught her delicious, live-in lover, **Stedman Graham**, in *flagrante delicto* between her own silk sheets with her hairdresser, **André Walker**—'cuz André, well-known in gay circles, is not at all Stedman's type!...No, dears it's *not* true: owner **Joe Beasley** assures us that the **Caper Room**, the Inglewood, bar just south of L.A., where "five no-trump" is considered *low* as an opening whist bid, but low bids with men get you over, is not up for sale to the highest bidder. Where the rumor got started Joe says he can't imagine...What dashing TV talk show host/actor recently moved from his West Hollywood condo just off Santa Monica Blvd. and, despite the rainbow of women he always had in tow, once stepped into a gay neighbor's flat to check out his leather drag?...Profilin' on Sunday in Los Angeles is still best done at **Jewel's Room**, where **Désirée** recently turned 'em all out in white pantsuit and boater, blonde tresses and cleavage festooned with a black rose. But **Alex** styled right back in a jet suit accessoried in gold, her hair sheared short on the sides, but rising in an angled sharkfin on top. **Brenda** was equally sleek in yellow broadshoulders, her hair erupting over her forehead—and her hand in **Alex's**. **Judie Jones** gave us that oldtime cabaret on stage, then let her son, **Kenneth**, take the mike. His solo version of "What's Goin' On" was sensuously soulful, then we got it in Dolby Sound when **Unique** joined her voice to his from the backroom, and the spontaneous duo drowned us in get-down sound. Unique's perfect hair, skin and figure were wound up tight in a black dress so short her shoulder bag hung below her hem. She moved like satin, smiled silk, sang like a siren—and talked about her agent. But sitting alone and unadorned, rapt in the music, was **Christine Tripp** of **Makeda**, looking lovelier, sweeter than we've ever seen her...Also in L.A.: Eat your hearts out, **Rage** and **Studio One**. **Madonna** and **Warren Beatty**, who manage to keep their names in the tabloids if not on the marquees, are hangin' out at **Catch One** these days, where, no doubt they're indulging in a common fantasy of Anglo stars—imagining they've just discovered a dangerously chic cultural happening à la Harlem in the '20s...**Ron Grayson** of **The Real Read** is embarrassing all those folks who're using AIDS as an excuse not to keep themselves up. Girlfriend has a new hairdo and wardrobe to flatter that new slim waist, and is hotter now than before ever meeting Mr. HIV, which shows you just can't let a no-good man get you down...What d'ya s'pose **Eddie Murphy**, **Michael Spinks**, **Luther Vandross** and **Mike Tyson** are all doing together on June 10 in N.Y. City? Co-hosting **Dionne Warwick's** "That's What Friends Are For" Concert at Lincoln Center to benefit kids with AIDS. Wonder if she's having to twist Eddie's arm? Need help, Dionne?...Love is still busting out all over at L.A.'s **Unity Fellowship Church**. On the 14th it was announced before the congregation that **Frankie Lennon** of **MAP** and **Kaseema** are gonna walk down that aisle together...At **Jewel Williams'** standing-room-only **Catch One** banquet in celebration of her 50th birthday, **Lady BJ** blew "I Sing This Song To You," and the children wept. Afterwards, Jewel one-upped **Rev. Carl Bean** by not only proposing to **Rue Thaïs** in mid-program from her sanctuary (as Rev did only last month from his) but then presented her fiancée with a diamond-encrusted ring. Don't look for your invite to the union ceremony 'till September 'cuz the search

has just begun for an edifice grand enough for the occasion...But the Rev was not to be outdone. He arrived back in town from Italy with a gift for the man he's been courting, **Gene Cornelius**. Next day, in church, 'Nelius relieved everyone's suspense (yawn) by announcing, "To end further speculation, I received an engagement ring last night brought from Venice. I have decided to accept it." We would too if an 18 carat boulder dropped on us from above...Did'ya hear **Paul Davis** of **X-Calibre** signed on **Minority AIDS Project** as health education manager? Did'ya hear MAP's staff didn't get their invitations to Paul's May 19th Red & White birthday bash until they met his salary demands? Never happened...Wisdom from rap master **Ice T**: "The bottom line of the gangs is to get girls. Men only work behind women. Men's lives revolve around what's gonna get them the women. And that's what gets women, acting macho." Guess that's why there are no gay gang bangers. And we thought it was because you had to pass a stupidity test...Guess what superstar's dad likes to open Spanish flys in L.A. boy bars?...**AIDS Project Los Angeles** is looking more and more colorful all the time, what with **Don** and **Michelle Williams** (unrelated) on staff, plus **Jai** and **Ada Page** (married) newly hired. Jai and Ada are one of those crazyfun couples who always carry their smiles with them, which black folks in the bowels of APLA need to do. Their new boss, **Steve Bennett**, has been oozing southern charm all over black gay and AIDS activists. Now if he could just lose that Dixie drawl...When **Phill Wilson** told us he was calling from Kaiser Hospital last week where he was being checked out for chest pains, we were so busy scolding him for running himself ragged that we forgot to wish him a speedy recovery. But the doctors confirmed our diagnosis of exhaustion (and mild pericarditis), and ordered him to REST for the first time in two years. Hear that **Phill**? R-E-S-T...On the literary scene, **Alyson Publications** has just released **The Buccaneer**, a tale of white outlaws who love to pirate booty, especially if its black. **The Alyson Almanac** of gay trivia, while diverting, allots more lines to West Hollywood porn star-cum-politician **Steve Schulte** than to **Bayard Rustin**, and omits the fact that **Audre Lorde** is black. **Essex Hemphill's** new book, **Soft Targets**, is due out any moment, and **Asotto Saint's** **Stations**, a poetry collection, is in print by **Galiens Press**. New Jersey's **Vega Studios** is coming out with a new July anthology, **Men of Color: An Essay on the Black Male Couple**, illustrating in poetry, prose and photography the fierce/fragile beauty of black gay male bonding...T to spill? Dial us at 213/410-0808 and whisper in our ear. Your friends'll never know, unless of course, they read lips...



Birthday Girl Jewel Williams (right) with her intended, Rue Thaïs. Photo by Bill Doggett.



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# BLK LIST

If you want your organization *Blk Listed*, drop a note to Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the July issue is June 19, 1989. The *Blk List* is designed for events that occur on a regular schedule. One-time events appear on the *Blk Board*.

- \*Somewhat black
- \*\*Significantly black
- \*\*\*Mostly black
- \*\*\*\*All black
- †Mixed gay and straight

## Eastern United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Allegro II**, 2056 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
**Brass Rail**, 811 - 13th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202-628-6496.  
**Clubhouse\*\***, 1296 Upshur St., N.W., Washington, DC 20011, 202-882-7471.  
**Kellers\***, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014.  
**Mt. Morris Baths\*\*\***, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035.  
**Nob Hill**, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington, DC 20010, 202-797-1101.  
**Smart Place**, 922 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**ADODI/Philadelphia**, Box 19132, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
**Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.  
**BEBASHI**, Box 26388, Philadelphia, PA 19141, 215-546-4140  
**Gay Men of African Descent**, Box 2519, New York, NY 10185-0021, 718-260-9541.  
**National Minority AIDS Council**, 714 G St., S.E., Washington,

DC 20003, 202-544-1076.

**Salsa Soul Sisters**, Box 1119, New York, NY

**Zami**, Box 7289, Sta. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X9, Canada

## Central United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Club La Ray\*\*\***, 3150 N. Halstead St., Chicago, IL 60657, 312-525-3150. Sundays and Tuesdays 11 p.m. Amateur talent show.  
**411 Club\*\*\*†**, 411 E. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-684-9387. Days straight, nights gay.  
**Golden Lantern\*\***, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70116.  
**Jeffrey Pub\*\*\***, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, 312-363-8555.  
**Martin's Den\*\*\***, 5550 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60621, 312-363-9470.  
**Rialto\*\*\***, 14 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60604, 312-427-9893.  
**Tina's RT1**, 1843 N. 20th, Milwaukee, WI 53205, 414-933-7577.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Ebony Connection**, 227 Congress St. #125, Austin, TX 78767, 512-478-DRUM.  
**IRUWA**, Box 19146, Minneapolis, MN 55419  
**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219, 313-537-0484.

## Western United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Annex\*\***, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.  
**Basgo's\***, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.  
**Blue and Gold\*\***, 136 Turk St., San Francisco, CA 94102.  
**Cabel's Reef\*\***, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612.  
**Caper Room\*\*\***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403. Mondays 10 p.m. Sir Marshall; Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male exotic dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Thursdays 9:30 p.m. Caper Connection show; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.  
**Catch One\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.  
**Cottage\*\*\*†**, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.  
**Cover Girl Club\*\*\*†**, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595. Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)  
**Eagle\***, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252.  
**Eagle Creek Saloon\***, 1884 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94104.  
**Foster's Club Penthouse\*\***, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd. #3, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-837-5881.  
**Griff's\***, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889. Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.  
**Horizon\*\*\***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678. Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Sundays and Wednesdays 10 p.m. The LaVerne Show; Mondays 9 p.m. Men's night and Gong Show with DJ; Tuesdays Wellfare Night; Thursdays Male exotic dancers.  
**Jewel's Room\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.  
**Midtowne Spa\*\***, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price admission.  
**Peacock Alley\*\***, 1271 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103.  
**Pendulum\*\***, 4146 Eighteenth St., San Francisco, CA 94114.  
**Rage\***, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7055. Tuesdays Gong Show, and 10 p.m.-2 a.m. London Life; 3rd Wednesday Fashion Show.



"Hi. Do you believe in interracial sex?"



**Study\*\***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-9551. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour.

#### RESTAURANTS

**Carriage Trade\***, 8225 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, 213-655-6425.

**Casita del Campo\***, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-662-4255.

**Crest\***, 3725 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-660-3645.

**Images\***, 3938 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-665-7390.

#### ORGANIZATIONS

**Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group**, 168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Saturdays 5 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 6 p.m.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-667-2549. Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-274-3398. 1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Jack**, Box 83515, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515, 213-338-1516.

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles**, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716.

Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 2nd Sunday 4 p.m. HIV+ Support pot luck dinner (location varies); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering committee meeting (location varies).

**Black and White Men Together/National Association**, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.

**Black and White Men Together/San Francisco**, 2269 Market St. #199, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice**, Box 341412, Los Angeles, CA 90034, 213-664-0234.

**Gentlemen Concerned**, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

**Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women**, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805. Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color; Wednesdays Women of color support group.

**Makeda**, 1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105. Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays 5 p.m. Women's rap group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" black women support group.

**Minority AIDS Project**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking support group; Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Aerobic class; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS support group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 7 p.m. Life Beyond Bars; Thursdays 7 p.m. American Sign Language class; Fridays 1 p.m. Family members of AIDS patients support group.

**Planning Committee for a Black Lesbian Conference**, 213-204-3894. Sundays 2:30-4:30 p.m. Black lesbians only (Held at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd.).

**Unity Fellowship Church**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship service; Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible study; Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**, 4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B, Compton, CA 90221, 213-639-3068. Thursdays 7 p.m. Positive approach to wellness support group for PWAs or HIV+ (Held at Watts Health Medical Holistic Center, 7514 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044).

**Womyn of Colors**, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205, Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Z and Z Productions**, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.



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## Next Month in BLK An Interview with Rev Carl Bean Prime Mover Behind Unity Fellowship Church and the Minority AIDS Project

Gay & Lesbian Literature

## A DIFFERENT LIGHT

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Saturday, June 17 at 8 p.m.

Carolyn Weathers • Georgia Cotrell

1989 GAY WRITERS SERIES

Sunday, June 18 at 7 p.m.

Micael Tapia • Robert Waldron • Mike Varady



# BLK MARKET

## SERVICES

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Personal health and fitness instructor. Phone Maleko at 213-465-2551. (7)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

AIDS Nursing Care: RNs, LVNs, CNAs, all shifts. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (E)

Field Director Sought. National lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual to build and maintain constituent mail/pressure grassroots system. Recruit, motivate and administer local organizers and supervise Regional Field Reps to expand mailgram program, constituent lobbying, house meeting program and other grassroots activities. Strong people skills, detail-oriented, willing to travel critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (7)

Messenger/driver needed for consortium of three companies. Full time days. Beeper provided. Must be dependable, have economical car and clean driving record. Bring proof of insurance and DMV printout to interview. Call Bobby. 213-667-2549. (7)

Outreach Coordinator/South Central Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Foundation, AIDS, hospice, health experience, self-starter. Resume to AHF, 1800 N. Argyle Ave. #304, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (7)

Photo coordinator to secure photographs from black (and otherwise) gay and lesbian (and otherwise) movers and shakers all over the country. Your own hours. No experience necessary, and almost no pay, but you do get to learn the business free. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Recovery Program Manager—gay/lesbian alcohol treatment facility seeks experienced and certified personnel. Prefer recovering, non-smoking gay or lesbian. Call or write for job description. \$19-24K negotiable. Van Ness Recovery House, 1919 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068. 213-463-4266. (8)

Regional Field Rep Sought. National

lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual (to be based in Chicago or North Carolina) to build regional grassroots mail/pressure system. Coordinate house meeting project, seek local groups to canvass community events to expand mailgram program. People skills, detail-oriented and assertive self-starter critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (7)

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (E)

The Minority AIDS Project needs dependable individuals to volunteer in our vital work helping our minority community. Qualifications: a big heart, time, and lots of love. Please call Rudy Cam at 213-936-4949. God loves you. (7)

Volunteer coordinator to keep track of the people who want to help make BLK fly. No experience necessary, and almost no pay. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Positive Image—A nationwide communications network for men who are HIV+, have ARC or AIDS and those who want to communicate with them. Free information. SASE. P/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (7)

AIDS, ARC, HIV+ social group. 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Castro area, San Francisco. Make friends or find a lover. No \$. Free personals list. Call Michael. 415-255-0614. (E)

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Sept., 1117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (7)

San Diego AIDS Project craves black input. Call 619-543-0300. (7)

Ball Club—A nationwide communications network for men who have 'em and men who want 'em. Free information. SASE. BC/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (7)

## WANTED

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also acceptable. Send with SASE

to Revon Kyle Banneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

Women of color wanted for study of female sexuality. If you are lesbian or previously lesbian, but now with men, write Study, 1032 Irving St., Box 443, San Francisco, CA 94122. (7)

Nude Talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (9)

Black male nude models and men that like/desire to show their stuff. New! Black Stallion magazine needs your photos and stories, ads, etc. Also enter our "big dick" contest!!! Send photos to: C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., L.A., CA 90028 (9)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for a roommate for 3-bedroom house. \$350 month including utilities. Call 213-960-7748. (7)

## FOR SALE

Hot Black Men—The East Coast's best black men are in photographs by Weems-Works, now available in erotic photosets or art prints. For sample and brochure, mail request stating age (over 21) and \$10 to David Weems, c/o Weems-Works, Box 22886, Baltimore, MD 21203 (TF)

AIDS—Build up immune system. Preventive treatment. Send money order for \$25 to D. El, Box 21833, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or send SASE for information. (7)

Gay male video available by mail order. Send \$1.00 for list to: W. Hall, Box 40496, Dept. Blk, Pasadena, CA 91114-7496. (9)

Free info for hot sex! More excitement and pleasure! Huge selection of top quality adult male products. Save 30% to 70% off! Confidential. Your name and address not released to anyone. CBG, Dept. 06, Box 5225, N. Hollywood, CA 91616. (E)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Australian Rick, blond, blue, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40, offers hot massage, hot spa, warm conversation. Only \$40 in. 213-259-8485. (8)

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wood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (10)

Non-sexual massage by hot BiWM, 195 lbs., 5'10" bodybuilder, big thighs, bubble butt. Certified, with table. \$40/hour. 213-204-6384. (7)

Very attractive black body-builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

WM, 45, seeks dominant BM for good times. Doug. 604-263-3991 (Vancouver). (9)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Am interested in meeting people who like meeting people. Am 47 years old. Like easy-going, yet serious people. Love nature. G.E., Box 2202, St. Augustine, FL 32085 (9)

Professional GWM seeks BM friend. Be adventurous! Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (9)

WM, 32, would like to meet black American, African or Arab for possible friendship. Mike 212-477-5647. (7)

GWM, 40s, 5'7", 135 lbs., G/p, F/a/p wishes to meet masculine black and/or Hispanic men to mutually explore the possibilities from lust to love. Write: Skip, 22 Benson Ave., Pennsville, NJ 08070. (9)

Where have all the older GBM gone? Sincere GWM seeks friend/lover. Box 502, Kenmore, Boston, MA 02215. (8)

GBM, 30, 6'2", 210 lbs., masculine, monogamous, nice-looking, New York City, seeks Puerto Rican, Dominican, South American man, 30-40, nationwide for friendship, relationship. Write with photo. Michael Guthrie, Box 684083, Corona-A, NY 11368. (E)

Attractive GWM, deep blue eyes, beard and moustache, 5'9", seeks masculine GBM who knows himself. Honest, sincere and a good sense of humor. Write with photo. Bruce, Box 2291, Meriden, CT 06450. (8)

Total concrete structure along south Texas Rio Grande available to small-assed, AIDS-tested, dope-free, sex-within-house-only, honest youths. Box 475, Big Pine Key, FL 33043. (E)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53 years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or



active. 40 to 70. No drugs, fems, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ 08607-2223. (9)

Black male, educated, cultured, refined, interested in corresponding and meeting compatible males, any race or religion. Rev. R. J. Strickland, Box 72, Boston, MA 02126-0072. (7)

### PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

Attractive, hot, horny white male seeking attractive, hot black male with a smooth bubble butt to work safely. No drugs, feds or fems. Send photo. Box 7415, Dallas, TX 75209 (9)

Texas BM seeks friends and possibly more from across the country. No drugs or stereotypes. Am mature and professional and seek the same. A Jones, 5951 Melody Lane, Dallas, TX 75231 (9)

Hung like a horse (beercan thick) and can make me take it all? Man enough to invite me into your bed and plow open my bubble? I wanna be taken by aggressive, uninhibited, insatiable black stud like you! You are successful, professional and workaholic. A gutsy top with real need and ability to take charge of my body. Me: honest, sincere, freebird, successful, workaholic, 5'6", 145, 44, dark, hairy, Indian/Italian. Details, picture to: Robert, Box 14042, Chicago, IL 60614. (E)

Attractive GWM, 27, seeks handsome, straight-appearing GBM. I'm tall dark and slim; professional; equally enjoy home and nightlife. Prefer tall and muscular, fun-loving guys. Box 486, Danville, IL 61834. (8)

Gay white mid-westerner, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., looking for black men for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (8)

WM, 50, seeks BM, any age, for sincere intimate relationship. No drugs. F/A/P. No G. Anxious to please you and be friends. Bill, Box 9645, Minneapolis, MN 55458. (8)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

### PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160 lbs. quiet, pleasant natured, drug-free, wishes to meet black, married, educated with good body for regular meetings with utmost discretion and safety assured. You be 6'2", +30-40 yrs., big skin 7+, top, and be genuine, sincere and who wants the best of both worlds. Photo appreciated and returned. No games. Only the serious need apply. BLK Box #4. (9)

Asian, 33, 5'9", seeks athletic 20-35 for safe relationship. 415-827-9973. (9)

2 GWM seek well-hung GBM for safe sex. Box 74030, L.A., CA 90004 (9)

BM wants to meet a very good-looking WM who is mentally and physically capable. Serious men only. 213-969-TAN-U. (7)

Handsome, 60, top, British, seeks creative tongue. Hairy a plus. Pic/phone. Under 45. 8721 Santa Monica #155, L.A. 90069 (8)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (7)

GWM interested in getting together with a top GBM, well hung 9+", to hump these tight buns at my place in the San Gabriel Valley for a good relationship and good safe sex. If interested, please call 818-369-6350. If no answer, please leave message. You won't be sorry. (8)

GWM, near Long Beach, 53, 6'4", 185, firm bod, intensely erotic, healthy HIV+, seeks very hot top, with flat stomach and thick 8+, for frequent fun. Must be self-supporting. Any race/age. If your mind and heart are as good as your cock, maybe we can become lovers. BLK Box #2. (7)

Butch, 33, good-looking, WM, 6'2", bottom, 210 lbs., BB, 46°C, 33"W, 17"A, bubble butt, professional, new to Huntington Beach, seeks masculine black top only (30-40), dominant, kinky, professional. Call after 6 p.m. 714-969-1582. Mark (8)

Blonde, blue-eyed GM, 45, 5'10", 175 pounds, good body, big arms, seeks black or Latin male, 20-40, thin or muscular, well-hung, top for safe sex. Call 213-285-3579. Leave message. (9)

Hot WM, 38, blond/blue, tan, moustache, wants to meet attractive BM, 20-40, intelligent, sense of humor important. Ph/ph to: Box 8107, Glendale, CA 91224. (9)

Are you a dark GBM, under 29, who enjoys dancing, bodybuilding and is self-sufficient? If yes, and you like what follows, contact me at BLK Box #3. I am 6'1", 151 lbs., 22 years old, fair and in the process of muscular development. Seeking workout partner with interest in a 1-on-1 relationship. (9)

Stocky, white male, 49 (interests: music, travel, intimate moments) seeks black top buddy, 49-65, sensuous, intelligent, caring. 415-527-4460 or write Bill, Box 9369, Berkeley, CA 94709. (9)

Uncut, good-looking, African-born white European, muscular, clean-shaven, blue eyes, 29, 5'11", 175 seeks intelligent, masculine, tall, very muscular, hunky black bodybuilder for

## Exodus Travel Service

213-285-8619

solicits your

# Vote for: Bernard

Emperor XVII

## South Bay Imperial Court

Voting Open to Everyone

Picture I.D. Required

Sat., July 1, 1989 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Cockatoo Inn

4334 West Imperial Highway, Hawthorne

## Unity Fellowship Church A Church For All People

☐ Sunday Worship Service  
11:30 a.m.

☐ All Persons HIV+, A.I.D.S. &  
ARC Are Welcome

☐ A Non-Judgmental Ministry

## God Is Love & Love Is For Everyone

## Rev. Carl Bean, P a s t o r

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles,  
California 90016 ☐ (213) 936-4948



friendship. Box 69A27, L.A. 90069 (8)

Straight black Puerto Rican stud, 42, hung 12x7 needs service from hung 10+. Only reply with photo and phone. Need 100% discretion. Leon Jackson, 8829 National Blvd., #75, Culver City, CA 90232. (7)

Hot, handsome, in-shape GWM, 47, 5'10", 160 lbs., seeks handsome GBM for friendship and much more. Call James. 714-336-1305 (7)

Handsome, articulate BM, 38, 6'2", 175 lbs., swimmer's build, Fr A/P, fro-tage, desires discreet liason with attractive, mature BM, 40-55, fit, 6'5", or taller. Your photo gets mine. BLK Box #1. (7)

In-shape older black gentleman with 8" wants to watch 2 young black bucks play in the dark. No participation necessary. Will pay expenses. Discretion essential. Warren, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233. (8)

Free massage for fit, smooth BM with big buns by WM, 36, professional, 6'0", 173 lbs. Mike 213-483-1517. (8)

Michael Rucker: Miss ya. Write! Box 18A255, L.A., CA 90018 (9)

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hollywood, CA 91607. (8)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, California 90004. (11)

Looking for dark, hairy, tall, attractive, nice build, black or Latin-type, between 30-50 years. You must be professional, spiritual, sincere and romantic, and sexually be G/A or F/A/P (safe sex). Nipple play is nice. I am tall, slim, 6'2", 170, 36 years, blond, tan, green-eyed, health-oriented, nice build, G/P. Exchange of photos a must. Larce, 2407 Wilshire Blvd., Box 285, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (7)

GWM, mid-years bodybuilder stud (body of 25 weightlifter ...better!) "great" pecs, wild in the sack (make you groan and burn!), masculine rugged-looking, hot, seeks GBM, bodybuilder or surf body (no plumps!). Photo/phone. Danny, Box 11658 Chandler Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601. I dig massaging (using oil!) (7)

Good-looking black athlete, 31, top, masculine, muscular, moustache, seeks younger, masculine, muscular, randy white boys who are bottom, streetwise and live for safe, clean fun. Serious replies only. 619-291-7834. (8)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond, beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. (7)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disap-

pointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

Good-looking, masculine GBM, 6'4", 37, 225 lbs., bearded professional, stalking articulate cuddle-bear, beefy and bearded (well, a moustache'll do) who will savor and succor, challenge and cherish, explore frontiers and fro-tage. Nothing easy sought or offered here, though a bed buddy would appeal: I'm uncertain if I'm focused or generous enough to be anyone's lover. Domestic, I'm not. Being intense, analytical and verbal, similar types attract; others beware. But I do love to laugh. If I sound like the stray pet you've been looking for, write Alex, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-237, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (7)

Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. (7)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Hollywood, CA 90078. (7)

Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138. (7)

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (8)

I am a 26 year old slightly heavysset black man with a handsome face who is totally straight, but craves a rough and tough black stud to break me in the gay life. I am financially secure, have a nice house and car and also a nice girlfriend, but I'm missing out on something. I would only go with a "black man" who acts black. No "oreos." I also will only go with an attractive man. No fat out-of-shapes or drug users. I am very passionate. I have yet to find a man who can control my high sexual needs. I only want black men who are 10" or more. No sissies or girl-acting men. If you are 25-35 years old and are over 5'9" tall and fit the bill, write me. John, Box 8340, Inglewood, CA 90308. (6)

Butch GWM, 51, seeks GR/A black SFV buddy. 818-766-6033. (6)

Affectionate W/M, 38, 5'3", 128#, blond/green, seeking G/B/W man in his mid-30s who has capacity for love and commitment, educated, self-sufficient, healthy, attractive and willing to share all with his equal. Photo and phone to Box 33834, San Diego, CA 92103. (6)

## How to Get into the BLK Market Free

• **Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

• **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

• **All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.

• **Box number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal* or *employment offered* ad sent to a BLK box for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

• **Replying to a BLK box.** Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Box # \_\_\_\_\_

BLK Classifieds

Box 83912

Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

• **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

Please complete and sign the following. This information will not appear in your ad.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for July issue: June 19, 1989.

### Figure cost of ad:

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 5¢ (employment only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cost to run ad one month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone verification at \$1 (outside CA \$3) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BLK Box at \$5 per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed (do not send cash) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083



# MIDTOWNE SPA



**“Serving the  
Gay Black Community  
For Over 20 Years”**

**24 hours a day there's  
someone here for you!**

A safe place to come . . .

A clean place to come . . .

A fun place to come . . .

A healthy place to come . . .

**COME BY SOON . . . YOU ALL**

**½ price on Tuesday • Full service  
every day of the year**

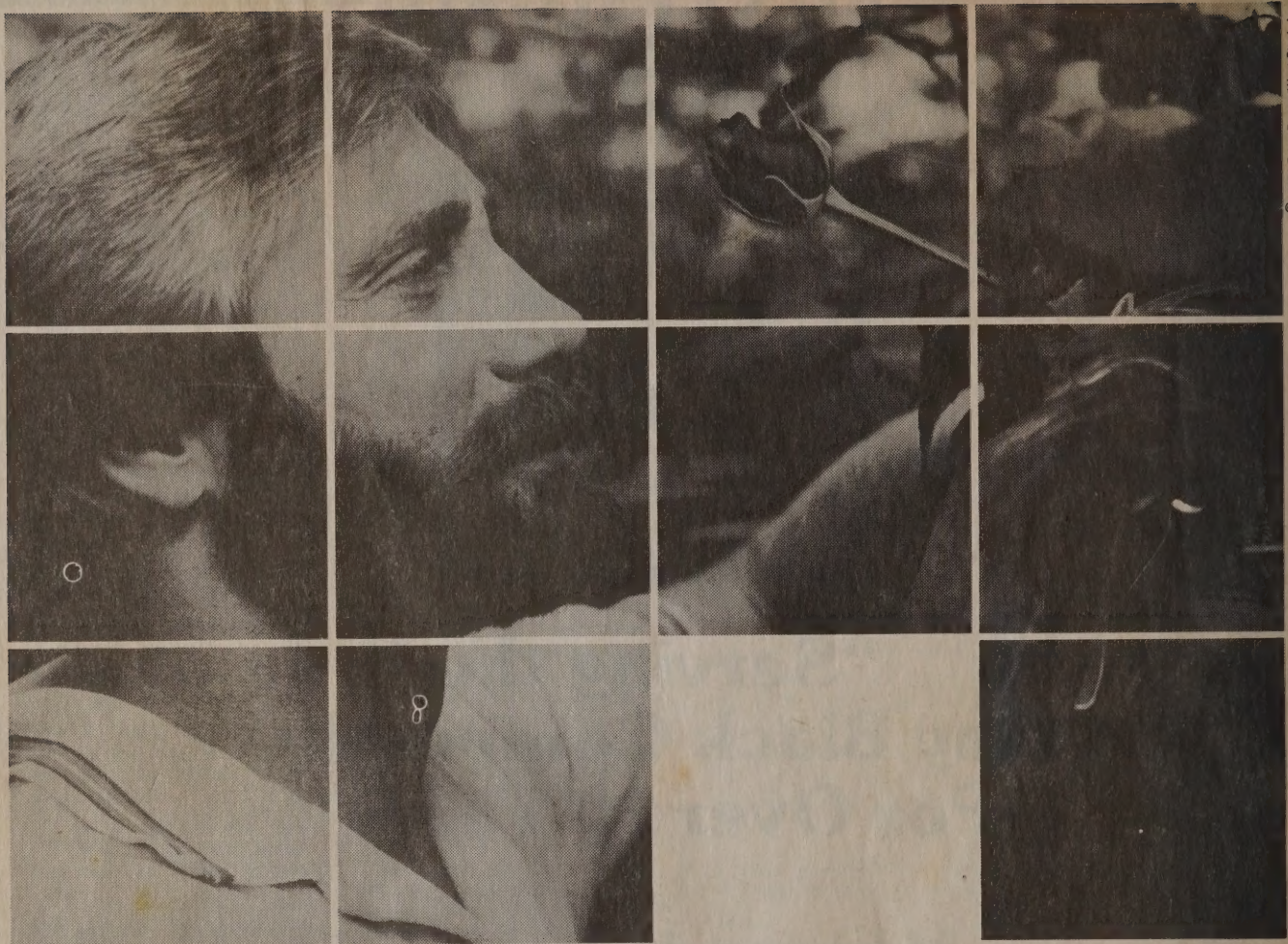
*“The Friendliest Place In Town”*

615 South Kohler St. • Los Angeles, California 90021

**Phone (213) 680-1838**

# **WE NEVER CLOSE**





## We treat people not parts.

Keith Medical Group, HIV specialists within a family practice environment, is composed of highly qualified medical practitioners, seasoned technicians and supportive staff. *All committed to treating the whole person, not a series of parts.*

Our expertise has proved that effective HIV/AIDS treatment requires the interaction of many disciplines: Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Disease, Pulmonary Medicine, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Neuropsychology, Nutritional Therapy, Social Work and complete laboratory facilities.

And we have this most comprehensive multispecialty team. All together. With a single dedication. You.

## KEITH MEDICAL GROUP

PAUL E. KEITH III, M.D.

VICTOR L. BEER, M.D.

Co-Medical Directors, Immune Suppressed Units.

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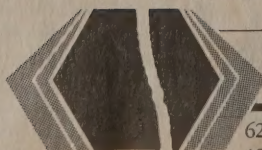
Michael Soffer, M.D.

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Same day appointments.

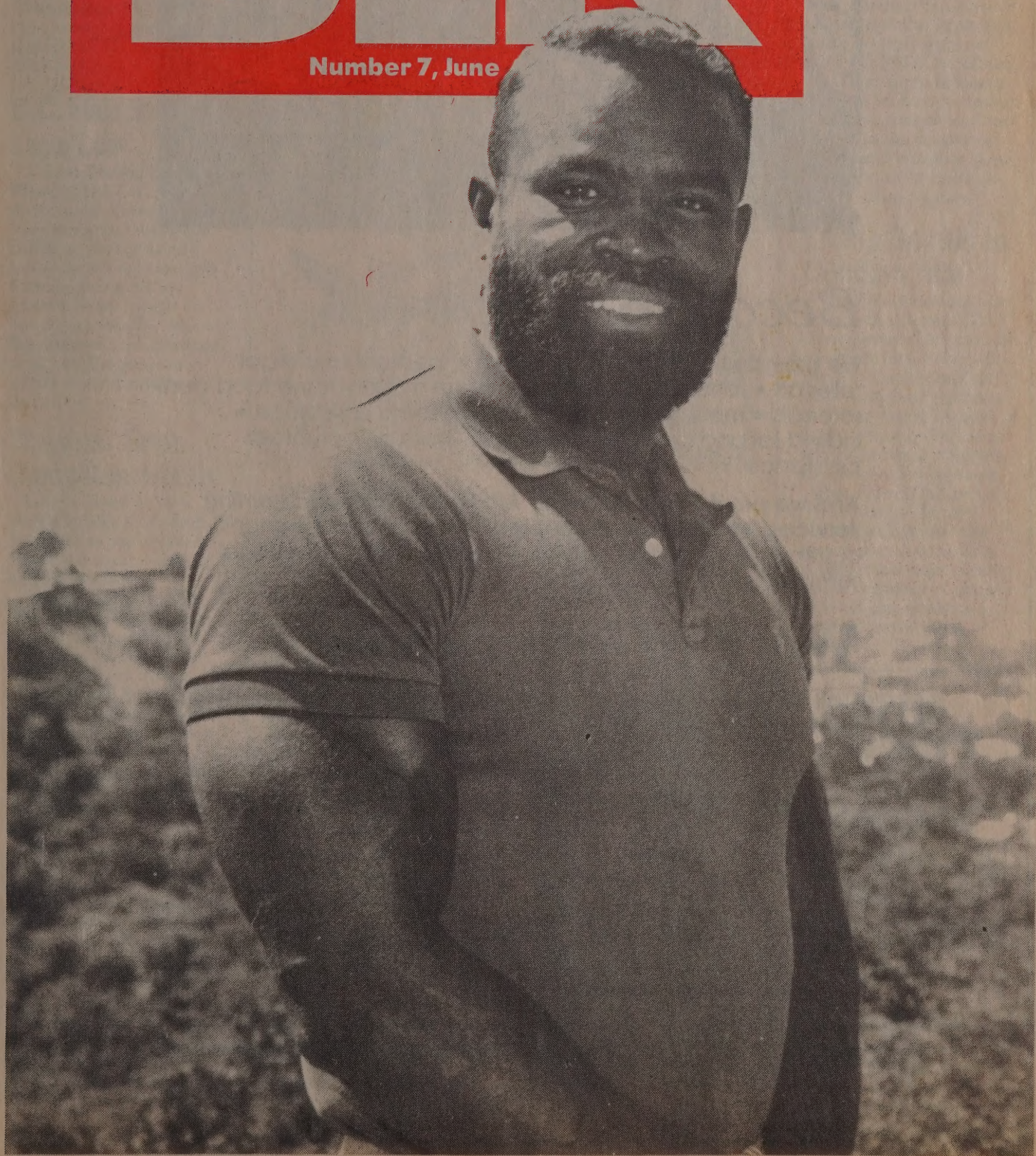
(213) 931-1463

(818) 769-6081



# BLK

Number 7, June







## *Because we care...*

**We provide the following services:** • medical and legal referrals • residential shelter • emergency food and food bank referrals • medical transportation • benefit assistance • individual and group counseling • "buddy" volunteer assistance.

**And we provide the following AIDS education and training services:** • "training the teacher" programs • community outreach • in-service training • business and professional seminars • speaker's bureau.

## *Want to know more...*

**Call 213-936-4949** anytime day or night. We're here to help. Because we care.

# *Minority AIDS Project*

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# WORD UP

## A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

The pitch for Johnny Walker Scotch which appears on this page ran in the March 20, 1989 issue of *New York* magazine. And you probably thought it ran in *The Advocate*.

## D.C. Hair Stylist Lays Low

Robyn-Denise Yourse of Washington, D.C.'s *Afro-American* reports that celebrated area hairstylist Bubbles has seemingly taken on a low-keyed posture following his appearance last month on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. He discussed his homosexuality on the program, which is syndicated nationally.

## Wayans: Boot Camp Masculinity

Laurie Stone in New York's *Village Voice* had an earful to say recently about one up-and-coming black comedian:

"Twenty-seven years ago, Damon Wayans was born into a poor Harlem family as one of 10 kids. He also arrived with a club foot, and he had to wear a thick-soled boxy shoe. These days Wayans is tall, sleek and good-looking, but his splenetic comedy still springs from the perspective of the shoe.

"Wayans sees the way black men, made impotent in society, feel feminized and infantilized and react by striving to prove their masculinity with violent acts and hardened hearts. The trouble with Wayans is that he isn't always in control of this knowledge. Sometimes, the pain of being black and once disabled whelms up as pure

"He works as hard as he plays.  
And he drinks Johnnie Walker"



rage-and gets directed at gay men. Gays obsess him, and his depictions are ignorant and undifferentiated. All are flaming queens who hold limp wrists to their chest, screech in high voices, and run from danger with spaghetti legs. These figures seem to embody his secret fear about himself-and some even reveal self-loathing. Wayans hates his flesh; nothing horrifies him more than the thought of a man incorporating his cock. And, reporting the flack he's taken, huffs, 'If you can take a dick, you can take a joke.' At another point, ripping off Michael Jackson's surgery, he quips, 'If I had \$100 million, I'd have the crack in my ass removed.'

"By becoming the kind of bully he first dissects, Wayans tries to rescind the vulnerability he's shown, but that's only one

motivation. Playing queens-with his limbs flailing out of control and his face suffused with joy-he recovers the freedom he had wearing the shoe. While his mouth insists he's a real man, his body says he's dying for a



vacation from boot-camp masculinity."

## Slick Rick's 'Lick'

The *Village Voice* also served up this tasty bit by pop music critic Cathy Campbell writing about *The Adventures of Slick Rick*, the 24-year-old namesake's debut album:

"In Slick's dogma, only a man can give him a sense of potency (and impregnability) to truly bust out. 'Lick the Balls' [an album cut] is far more homoerotic than Rick might intend—his rap goes beyond testifying to the oracles-of-def-fly and boasting about mouth-to-balls coordination of other rappers."

## Elders Say No to Condom Ads

The *Afro-American* also reports that several D.C. clergypersons and councilmembers have rejected a move to display explicit AIDS prevention posters in public places because of language and pictures referring to using condoms as a preventive measure.

Rev. Albert Gallmon, Jr. of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church said he felt the church was not the best place for messages which speak blatantly of condom use and pre- or extra-marital sexual engagements.

**IF HE  
DOESN'T  
CARE  
ENOUGH  
TO WEAR A  
CONDOM  
HE DOESN'T  
CARE.**

**USE A CONDOM.  
DON'T MESS AROUND WITH AIDS.**

FOR INFORMATION: 332-AIDS (V/TDD)  
D.C. Department of Human Services  
Commission of Public Health



# BLK BOARD

To have your event put on the Blk Board, contact Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the July issue is June 19, 1989. The Blk Board is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are Blk Listed.

Blk Board also acts as a Master Calendar for the black gay community so that scheduling conflicts between events can be minimized. Blk keeps information on both firm and tentative events. Contact us either to let us know the details of your organization's event, or to determine if any other events are already scheduled for a particular day.

## FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Plummer Park, Long Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, Calif. 7 p.m.

The Oxford Club is hosting a benefit party for Gay Men of African Descent. 148 Eleventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 11 p.m. \$6 GMAD members; \$8 non-members advance tickets; \$10 everyone at-door. For more information, call Byron at 718-434-5556, Colin at 718-979-1474, Derek at 718-693-4990 or Michael at 718-287-8392.

## SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989

Annual Memorial Day Picnic sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles in Griffith Park. Free hot dogs, buns and condiments. You bring soft drinks, lemonade or fruit drinks. Alcohol is not permitted in the park. 3 p.m. Call for exact location. 213-664-4716.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1989

Birthday Party for Horizon owner Louis Offlee. 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m. 213-737-9678.

## MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1989

Second Anniversary of the LaVerne Show. DJ is Sydney Perri. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m. For more information, call Bruce Johnson 213-737-9678.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1989

West Coast Premiere of "Wonderland" benefiting the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. The movie stars, among others, Emile Charles as Eddie, a gay mulatto teenager. Reception follows screening. Writers Guild Theatre, 135 S. Doheny, Beverly Hills, Calif. 7:30 p.m. \$20. 213-464-7400, ext. 253.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1989

Gladys Knight headlines "24 Hours for Life," an evening of events at five different New York night spots (11 East, Tracks, Red Zone, The Choice, Tunnel) and a comedy club (Michael's Pub), presented in association with the Warwick Foundation's Second Annual Benefit Gala Weekend. 212-633-1612.

AIDS Education Forum sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

## MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1989

Party for Bruce W. Johnson celebrating his promotion to the Horizon's Entertainment Coordinator. 3416 W. Wash-

ington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m.

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m.

Poet Cheryl Clarke and sci-fi writer Samuel R. Delany will be among the authors reading from their works at "The Benefit of Words: New York," a part of New York's Gay Pride Celebration. Astor Place Theatre, 434 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 8 p.m. \$15.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1989

Juneteenth Party. Cottage, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2 p.m. until. 213-935-5540.

Juneteenth Party. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 5 p.m. 213-671-7323.

Juneteenth Party. Food. Entertainment by Vision A Jazz and Blues Band. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-737-1159.

## MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1989

Batman Party. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-737-9678.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by BWMT/LA. Catch One Disco, Roots Room, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1989

Exodus Travel Service will hold a party for Bernard, a candidate for Emperor XVII of the South Bay Imperial Court. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-285-8619.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1989

Rev. Carl Bean will be honored as Christopher Street West/Los Angeles's Man of the Year in ceremonies at West Hollywood Park, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, W. Hollywood, Calif. 3 p.m.

The 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," will be held at West Hollywood Park, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, W. Hollywood, Calif. Sat., June 24, Noon-Midnight. Sun., June 25, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventists Kinship International is sponsoring its First Annual Kinship Kampmeeting Karavan beginning in San Diego with its final destination the Tenth Annual Kinship Kampmeeting in the Portland, Oregon area. The Karavan will stop in Los Angeles for a kickoff rally and vegetarian potluck picnic June 24, 1989. For more information call 213-876-2076 or write Box 3840-K, Los Angeles, CA 90078-3840.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1989

Maxine Waters will appear as Grand Marshall of the 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," sponsored by Christopher Street West/Los Angeles. Parking available at the Pacific Design Center. 12:30 p.m.

Ronald S. Johnson, director of the Minority AIDS Task Force, and Barbara Smith, founder of Kitchen Table Press, will be among the speakers at "Celebration 20! The Rally." The rally will include speeches, music and entertainment. Central Park, Great Lawn, New York, N.Y. 2-6 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1989

"Monarch Show" featuring the current Emperor and Em-



press of the Imperial Court of South Bay, Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$5. 213-671-7323.

The Second Conference of Anti-Homophobia Education, "Ending Heterosexuality and Homophobia: Strategies, Networking and Support," will explore, among other things, "the relationships between racism, sexism and homophobia." Separate support groups for women of color and men of color will meet during the conference. UCLA Conference Center, 310 DeNeve Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. June 30-July 3, 1989. Fees vary depending on registration date. For more information contact Jeff Beane at 213-273-6375 (California) or Mary Jo Osterman at 312-864-2840 (Illinois), or write Box 819, Cambridge, MA 02139.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1989

45th Birthday Celebration for Rev. Carl Bean. Also the kickoff for "Coming Home for Friends Week." Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-6 p.m. \$10 single tickets, \$45 individual sponsorships (includes 2 tickets), \$450 organizational sponsorships (includes 10 tickets).

The Ninth Annual Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together will take place July 2-8, 1989 at the Florida State University Center for Professional Development in Tallahassee, Florida. For more information contact BWMT Tallahassee/Big Bend Florida, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3321. 904-681-9499.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1989

Dionne Warwick will headline "Coming Home for Friends II," a redux of last year's gospel concert and benefit for Minority AIDS Project. Shrine Auditorium, 649 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-936-4949.

## BLK MAIL

### Anti-Woman Cartoons

Dear Editor:

I found the captions to the cartoons on pages 19 and 25 of February issue to be anti-woman.

I appreciate your articles that contribute to the integrity of black women, lesbians, and gays, such as the Germain Maisonet interview and the report on Nia retreat.

I support a feminist bias in recreating our world, including our publications.

Ananda Lowe  
Los Angeles, California

### Insight and Analysis

Dear Editor:

L. Lloyd Jordan's "Policing the Task Force" [BLK, May 1989] was one of the best pieces of insight and analysis I've read in the gay press in a long time.

Steve Taravella  
Santa Monica, California

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

## News of the BLK Family

In a recent editorial, *Frontiers* publisher Bob Craig called BLK "a nicely designed monthly magazine" that "non-blacks will enjoy." He called it "a welcome addition to the journalistic family ...[that] deserves both your readership and your advertising support."

Meanwhile, in an article called "Minority Gays Find Strength in Unity," the *Los Angeles Times* dismissed BLK as "a mix of news, pictures of nude men in raunchy party-line advertisements and risque profiles of porn stars." The article also misquoted BLK publisher Alan Bell as having made a tasty mixture of sexist and self-serving remarks.

New York's Gay Men of African Descent did a write-up on BLK in their *Calendar* while *Update* in San Diego called BLK "an outstanding new gay/lesbian publication."

BLK welcomes five people to the staff this month. Asif Zaman takes over in advertising allowing Gene Cornelius to move to public relations. Baltimore photographer David Weems, noted for delicious pictures of black men, will be providing BLK with East Coast images. Lars Eighner, L. Lloyd Jordan and Blair Nix join as contributors. On the promotion front, Mark Haile moves from contributor to staff writer.

And speaking of the East Coast, BLK can use as many correspondents (words and/or pictures) from cities across the country as it can get. If you'd like to be our eyes and ears in your hometown, drop us a line, a fax or a phone call. BLK also has several local staff positions open. Experienced journalists who can donate a few hours to a rookie publication are urged to give a call. We'll do lunch.—A.B.

## BLK

Number 7, June 1989

Editor and Publisher Alan Bell

Staff Writers Revon Kyle Banneker, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Chi Hughes, Jarvis D. Moore

Contributors Clarence Burns III, L. Paul Davis, Lars Eighner, Frank Hall, L. Lloyd Jordan, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen, Blair Nix

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Public Relations Gene Cornelius

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Finance Howard McPhatter

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Cover: Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. Photo by Alan Bell.  
Cartoons courtesy Ebony. New captions by BLK.



# Harrassment vs. Protection

*Police actions at Hollywood bar stir feelings of ambivalence*

By Lars Eighner

**L**aw-abiding black and gay people have good reason to have mixed feelings about the police.

We want protection, not only from the crimes that could happen to anybody, but also from the hate crimes perpetrated by racists and homophobes. On the other hand we have experienced, or know someone who has experienced, police harassment, police entrapment, or even police violence because racism and homophobia exist in police departments.

When police visit one gay bar with a large black following three times in less than three weeks, ambivalence about the police tilts toward suspicion.

Uniformed officers of LAPD entered the Study in Hollywood shortly before closing Sunday morning April 15. They ordered the music turned down and the lights turned up.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Customers were told to stand with their hands flat on the bar. That was the third time since March 29.

On a previous visit police checked IDs and arrested seven customers for outstanding traffic warrants. Another time police searched customers for weapons.

Three times seemed like a pattern to customer Jay Bradshaw. He asked officers why they had entered the bar. Police said they were looking for someone.

Bradshaw believes the police visits were related to an incident that occurred late in 1988. The Lodge, another bar owned by Study proprietor Stu Zinn, was shut down briefly in December for alleged occupancy violations. Bradshaw believes that a subsequent meeting between owner Zinn, five city councilmembers and representatives of the LAPD embarrassed LAPD. Bradshaw suspects that events at the Study are LAPD's retaliation.

But I visited the study and other customers had other theories.

"It's a bad corner, man," a black customer told me.

"No question about it. They are dealing drugs out there." "Out there" is the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Western Avenue. It is a bad corner. They are dealing drugs out there. The #1 bus from downtown stops on Hollywood Blvd. and around the corner on Western the #207 bound for Western and Imperial Highway boards passengers. At night, especially on a weekend night, large numbers of people, mostly black, stand, sit and lean on things along Western.

Many of them are waiting for the bus, but when the #207 bus departs, many also remain. Some who remain are just hanging out, some are drinking, some are panhandling, some are waiting at the window of TY&T Burgers at the corner, few seem to be hooking or hustling but, yes indeed, some are dealing drugs.

Local residents think Hollywood and Western is the worst corner in Hollywood. They recall an apparently random stab-

bing at the bus stop—the victim had been sleeping on the bench. They refer vaguely to a number of shootings and muggings.

When I observed the area a beer bottle flew out of a passing car, bounced off a wall, and shattered a couple of feet away. It could have happened anywhere. But the perception is that it is the sort of thing more likely to happen at Hollywood and Western.

**T**he Study is on Western, several hundred feet north of Hollywood Blvd., set back on a partially fenced lot. Like many gay bars, the Study does not look like much from the outside.

Inside, the Study seems very far away from the corner of Hollywood and Western. Although it is a small bar, it is as nicely furnished as any gay bar in Hollywood. The walls are adorned with smartly framed art prints and prominently displayed safe sex posters. The felt on the pool table is like new. There are about a half-dozen small tables, a modest but adequate bar, and a cozy conversation area wrapped around a free-standing fireplace. The red leather-like upholstery is well-maintained—after an hour I had found only one rip. The floor needed sweeping, but it was after 11 on a Friday night and the bar was busy.

The big difference between the Study and the street was the people. The crowd was attractive, masculine, about two-thirds black, mostly mid-20s to early 30s, and well-dressed in a casual vein. The obvious hustlers and tacky drags

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*"There's a real problem on the street. The police ought to deal with it on the street. But since they won't, let 'em come in here. They'll see we have nothing to hide."*

---

common in some other Hollywood bars were not evident at the Study.

A large sign over the bar reads: "No loitering. 3 drink Minimum. No Exceptions." I could not drink three cocktails the way they are poured at the Study, but a customer explained the sign was meant to discourage people from the street who might otherwise duck in and out of the bar.

Customers I talked to were ambivalent about the police visits, but the black patrons were, if anything, less suspicious of the police.



"There's a real problem on the street," one black customer told me. "They [the police] ought to deal with it on the street. But since they won't, let 'em come in here. They'll see we have nothing to hide. And folks out there [on the street] might start thinking it's a bad idea to come in here."

Nearly everyone I spoke to expressed doubts that the police visits to the Study were related to the occupancy citation of the Lodge. They pointed out that the Lodge had experienced no further problems and neither had My House, another Hollywood bar owned by Zinn.

A white customer thought the police simply saw black people going into the Study. "We can tell who belongs here and who doesn't," the customer said. "The police could tell the difference too if they could get past skin color."

**B**ut without talking to the individuals, how could police make that distinction if not on the basis of something as superficial as clothing.

I observed a young man hop off the curb and exchange something with a passenger who was in a car southbound on Western Ave. The man was somewhat younger than most of the Study's customers. He was dressed in a white T-shirt, high school jacket, jeans, and sneakers—all apparently clean. Since the Study's clientele are mostly masculine, the young man differed from them in no obvious mannerism.

The difference *was* clothing. Could, would, should the police notice that in a mixed gay bar blacks dress up and whites dress down? Should police stick their heads in gay bar; see the turtlenecks, slacks, polished shoes, and sports

jackets; and shrug off a promising lead if they had one?

On the other hand, if I could see the delivery being made, why could plainclothes police not see that same thing and deal with the problem on the street.

There still is no answer to why the police visited the Study three times in less than three weeks. Customer Bradshaw says he complained verbally to Nina Greenberg in Councilmember Mike Woo's Silverlake office and Sgt. Dravidzius of LAPD's Hollywood office on Wilcox.

Greenberg told me that since uniformed officers were involved she supposed the incidents were not vice operations. She referred inquiries to Brian Galbraith of the community relations office of LAPD in Hollywood.

Galbraith told me that the matter was being treated as an inquiry and was being handled by Sgt. Dravidzius's inquiry was not complete as BLK went to press. If there was a legitimate law enforcement objective of the incidents it hardly matters now what it was.

A pleasant place like the Study could not exist long in the environment of Hollywood and Western without a police presence in the area. People at the Study know that.

But they also know LAPD has a history of racism and homophobia and for whatever reason LAPD is not dealing with the problems of the street on the street.

Since a uniformed police operation is no secret to begin with, why are officers not more forthcoming about what they are looking for and why at the time of these incidents? Police might be surprised by the willingness of people to cooperate with legitimate law enforcement objectives.

Arrogance on the part of the police can only perpetuate our ambivalence.

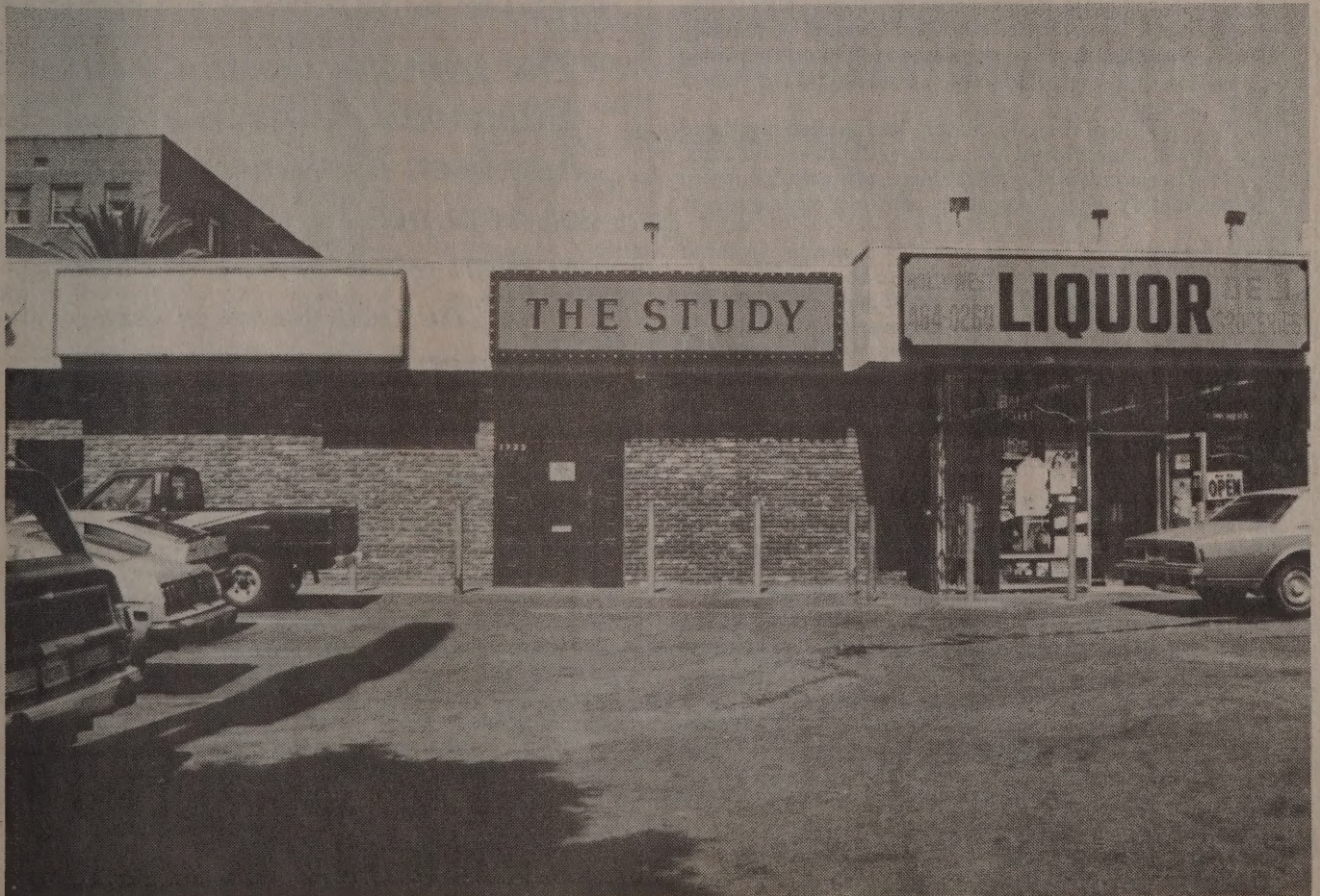


Photo by Alan Bell



# The Truth about Stonewall

*Lesbians, gay men of color, drag queens  
and young people start modern gay movement*

**By Mark Haile**

**J**une 27, 1969, The Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street, in Greenwich Village, New York.

It was described as "the hairpin drop heard around the world," in reference to a 1960s expression for revealing you were gay before "coming out of the closet" was fashionable. Until Stonewall, Gay people were either "out" only to each other, or they were yanked out of the closet by scandal, destined for shame, humiliation, and ruin.

But Stonewall changed all of that. Twenty years ago this month, something happened in New York's West Village at what had been a shabby little bar off Sheridan Square that would influence nearly every lesbian and gay man living in America today.

The impact of what happened at the Stonewall Inn has been overrated, some critics say. Yet veterans of the Gay Pride movement note with amusement how many people claim to have been there and to have been part of the riots of June 27, 28 and 29.

In the retelling of the tale, history has become myth and desperation is remembered as romance. Changes and omissions, whether accidental or intentional, are nothing new in American history when it concerns people of color, gays, or women.

And the Stonewall legend does concern people of color. If that sultry weekend's street theater is to be regarded as the launching pad of the modern gay rights movement, then it is essential for us to know the key players who started it all: drag queens, hustlers, jailbait juveniles, and gay men and lesbians of color. The outcasts of gay life thus showed homosexual America how to make a fist, fight back, and win self-respect.

**T**he Stonewall was certainly not the first bar of its kind to cater to the "fringe element" of the gay community. Interracial bars and bars geared toward blacks and Latinos in New York City had been around for well over 50 years.

In the decade prior to the depression, Harlem enjoyed the title of Negro capital of the United States—home to the nation's most talented black artists, writers and musicians. Clubs like the Hot Cha and Lulu Belle's rivaled the best bars of today's gay scene. The Savoy Ballroom, originally at Lenox and 140th Street was the hot spot in the 1920s for the black gay drag balls that had been in existence since the 1890s, making them the longest continuously operating gay event in American History.

By that muggy summer of 1969, however, Harlem was scarcely the mecca for America's black cultural elite.

It was hot and humid day and night that Friday, June 27, as it had been and would be for weeks on end.

Gay bars had a short life span in the 60s. Election year

would precipitate raids on a regular basis. Developers used heavy handed methods to get hold of desirable property. The mob looked on popular gay bars as targets for takeover. Rarely was there any resistance to any of these threats—especially when bar owners also had to pay out to the cop on the beat just to stay in existence.

Bars with a black lesbian and gay following opened and closed on a regular basis all across New York City. In the Village, they were usually racially mixed gay bars like the Grapevine or Gianni's, while the clubs up in Harlem were usually all black, but tended to blend straight and gay clientele, like Snooky's, the Purple Manor, or the Dug-out, to name a few.

Jack, a dapper, white-haired gentleman, fondly remembers bars where, "everyone wore a tie. You had to be so careful in those days. If you were a stranger in the bar, no

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*The transformation of the  
Stonewall Riots to legend  
has been a prime example  
of how people of color and  
women got left out of many  
of the accounts of the  
incidents that took place  
that weekend.*

---

one would speak to you until they checked you out. Then once they knew you were okay, they were the friendliest people you could ever meet."

Larry Boxx, who ran the Stonewall Inn at the time of the riots, worked in or owned more than a dozen bars in his days in the club business in New York. He remembers the era before the riots at the Stonewall vividly.

"I was arrested 109 times, with only three convictions. It was a game. Police would check up on business licenses constantly. 'There was a Lt. Pine who really had it in for the gay clubs,' he recalls. Lt. Pine was a deputy inspector from the Public Morals section of the first division of the New York Police Department. A typical violation would be for something like no soap in the men's room, or an unlicensed coat check room.

"I once had eight raids in one night. I had a charge account with bail bondsman," he recalls. Standard procedure was to take in the manager on duty or a staff member down to the precinct, who would usually be processed and back to work in a few minutes. "You took a token bust," Boxx recalls.



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A black Los Angeles psychologist remembers an experience in a gay club before the Stonewall Riots. "You couldn't even touch another man in those days! A drag queen tried to give me a kiss once, and the undercover cop went "Whoosh!" and snatched her up and hauled her off to jail. I didn't have any I.D. on me. I was under age, and when the police weren't looking, the other queens hissed at me, "Run, run like your life depends on it." And I did, too. We couldn't dance together, you know. There was a big light on top of the

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## *Bars with a black lesbian and gay following opened and closed on a regular basis all across New York.*

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jukebox. When the police would come through the door, this bright light would come on, and everybody would grab the nearest girl to dance with, that's just the way it was."

At one point in 1969, there was only one dance bar for gays in Manhattan. "Six months in the bar business was a long time," Boxx recounts.

**T**he Stonewall Inn scarcely reflected the refinement of the gay bars that had been evident during the Harlem Renaissance. As dance bars today go, it was fairly simple.

In the 1950s, according to Boxx, the Stonewall Inn had been an elegant dinner house, with an enormous flagstone fire place. A long bar dominated the far right wall of the two adjoining store fronts that made up the interior.

The Stonewall Inn had gone through a succession of owners through the late 50s and 60s as the area around Sheridan Square fell upon hard times.

The bar eventually garnered a gay clientele, but not of the sportcoat and tie set. Even as the riots were getting under way that humid weekend in defense of the Stonewall, there was another effort underway elsewhere to start a boycott against it and other bars like it. Shabby gay bars like the Stonewall were perceived by some as more of a threat to the health and self-image of lesbians and gays than the safe haven from persecution they offered.

Long time Christopher Street bookstore owner Craig Rodwell says that between the police and the Mafia, no one could open a gay bar in 1968 with "a healthy social atmosphere." The Stonewall was suspected of being responsible for a local outbreak of hepatitis because bar backs didn't bother washing the glasses.

**T**he crowd that weekend was anything but politically charged. But it was hot. Over 20,000 people had waited up to four hours each in searing heat to view the body of Judy Garland at the Frank & Campbell Funeral Home at 81st and Madison Ave. Thousands of blacks came to pay their respects, too—young and old, men and women. Many people took Friday off to go see her. Thousands thronged the street afterwards, with time on their hands and nothing to do.

When Lt. Pine and the seven other policemen from the Public Morals Section set out that night for the Stonewall, it was to have been a routine raid like the several others that had preceded it in the weeks before.

As Boxx recalls, the only thing actually amiss at the Stonewall Inn was a \$20 tax stamp that the bar was supposed to have on record. The search warrant brought by Pine

was for investigation of reports that liquor was being sold illegally, that the club was operating without a license.

Sometime after Friday night became early Saturday morning, the police began their raid of the bar they referred to as "well known for its homosexual clientele." Upon serving the warrant, detectives began taking inventory of the liquor they were about to confiscate. Patrons were usually allowed to leave after their I.D. was checked, except those "suspected of cross-dressing," who were to be taken to the precinct for questioning and eventually released.

Those permitted out of the bar by the police milled about outside, standing by Sheridan Square, waiting for friends still inside the bar.

There had been about 200 people inside the bar, but now the crowd had doubled in size as passers-by watched the show, and those exiting the bar shouted and shrieked to their friends, posing grandly.

Some bar patrons were apprehensive because of events surrounding raids days earlier. Among those who had been arrested was a young South American student, fearful of being deported if it were discovered he was gay. Despondent, he leapt from the third story window while in custody at the Charles Street Police Station, impaling himself on the spikes atop the facility's surrounding wrought iron fence. Although he survived the fall, he was maimed for life, and sensational photographs of the incident made the front pages of the New York tabloids. For the homosexual community, it inflamed an already long, hot summer. It was prominent in the conversations of those waiting for their friends still inside the bar.

The mood shifted quickly when three drag queens were taken from the bar and placed in the police paddy wagon. The crowd began shouting at the policemen, but the real confrontation was yet to take place.

The next person taken out of the bar was a lesbian, who struggled with the police every step of the way. This seemed to be the visual cue that motivated the crowd, for no one person led the charge. No one directed the energy of the throng.

What happened next was described as "a rampage" by the *New York Times*. The crowd started throwing everything and anything they could get their hands on at the startled police.

Larry Boxx, remembers that there was a loose parking meter that was uprooted easily as the policemen barricaded themselves inside the bar amid a shower of pennies, bricks and bottles.

Tactical patrol force units, a new anti-riot squad designed

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## *The only thing actually amiss at the Stonewall Inn was a \$20 tax stamp that the bar was supposed to have on record.*

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specifically for use in Harlem, were brought in to clear the area.

Eventually, thirteen people were arrested that evening with four policemen reported slightly injured.

**W**hen the Stonewall reopened the following night serving only soft drinks, the tactical patrol force units appeared shortly after 2 a.m. to clear the crowd that had gathered along Christopher Street and in Sheridan Square.



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This program is funded nationally by a grant from the United States Centers for Disease Control and locally by a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

For more information call:

**BWMT / Los Angeles: 213/664-4716**



The riot squad, linked arm to arm the width of the street, dispersed the crowd between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Those who didn't escape down the numerous, narrow alleys and side streets in time were clubbed and shoved to the ground. This time, only three people were arrested, but many

more were injured or involved in confrontation as the police broke ranks and charged into the crowd.

On the second night of fighting with the police, gay graffiti appeared all over the street and the shouts included, "Gay Power." Numerous flyers were passed out among the crowd.

## Major Events in Black Gay History Since Stonewall

### 1969

⇒ Raid on Stonewall Inn in N.Y., transformed gay movement to street radicalism as black and Latino drag queens/hustlers fought cops.

### 1970

⇒ Black Panther leader Huey Newton supports gay lib, saying "perhaps a homosexual could be the most revolutionary." But some friction occurs between gays and more macho Panthers at Washington, D.C. revolutionary convention.

### 1971

⇒ Black Assemblyman Willie Brown pledges to work for gay rights law in California.

### 1973

⇒ Congresswoman Barbara Jordan's majestic voice spellbinds America during Watergate.

### 1974

⇒ Sierra Domino, nation's largest studio of black gay erotica established in San Francisco.

⇒ *Loving Her*, by Ann Allen Shockley, published.  
⇒ *Ruby* by Rosa Guy, the first lesbian teen novel.  
⇒ MCC starts a chiefly non-gay congregation in Zaria, Nigeria, as a result

of an attack on MCC in a Jehovah's Witness magazine.

### 1975

⇒ Salsa Soul Sisters founded in N.Y., first lesbian West Indian and black women's group.  
⇒ Willie Brown's repeal of California sodomy statute goes into effect.

### 1978

⇒ Black gays invited to White House for meeting.  
⇒ National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays founded.

### 1979

⇒ First Third World Conference held in Washington, D.C., largest gathering of black gays.  
⇒ First NCBLG Conference.  
⇒ Baldwin's *Just Above My Head* includes black gay lovers, affirmatively portrayed.

### 1980

⇒ Cuban Refugee Project sponsored by MCC settles black Cubans in U.S.  
⇒ Mel Boozar is first black nominated for vice president at a Democratic convention.  
⇒ Navy anti-lesbian witchhunting aboard the U.S.S. Norton Sound. Whites freed, blacks convicted.  
⇒ Black and White Men Together chapters started

in many cities.

### 1981

⇒ First black man in U.S. is diagnosed at UCLA with what is later to become known as AIDS.  
⇒ Third World Women's Archives founded in Brooklyn, N.Y.  
⇒ Rev. Renee McCoy founds Harlem MCC.  
⇒ Black Heart Collective publishes first collection of black male literature.  
⇒ Barbara Smith founds Kitchen Table Press.

### 1982

⇒ Alice Walker produces the Pulitzer Prize winning *The Color Purple*.  
⇒ N.Y. police wreck "Blues," a black gay bar.  
⇒ Ex-Dodger Glen Burke comes out.  
⇒ Evangelical scholar Dr. James Tinney of Howard University, founds Faith Temple in Washington, D.C., the largest independent black gay congregation.

### 1983

⇒ *Zami: a New Spelling of My Name* establishes Audre Lorde as major American author.  
⇒ James Baldwin, America's greatest living male author, comes out at BWMT/N.Y. event.  
⇒ BWMT protests gay bar carding across U.S.; BWMT/Atlanta gets city to adopt anti-carding ordinance.

### 1985

⇒ Bayard Rustin breaks silence on his gayness when he addresses NABWMT convention.  
⇒ Minority AIDS Project, first and largest community-based black gay AIDS organization formed in Los Angeles by Rev. Carl Bean.

### 1986

⇒ International Lesbian and Gay People of Color Conference held in Los Angeles.  
⇒ National Minority AIDS Council forms in Washington, D.C.

### 1987

⇒ Rev. Carl Bean gets NAACP Image Award for AIDS work.

### 1988

⇒ Rev. Jesse Jackson, speaking at Catch One Disco in L.A., becomes the first major presidential candidate to address a black gay audience.  
⇒ "Coming Home for Friends," first major fundraiser by black music industry for black PWAs.  
⇒ NABWMT receives first national grant to a gay organization to do AIDS education for black gays.  
⇒ Bevan Dufty elected co-chair of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles, largest local gay PAC in America.



Even though they started out as an unruly mob without direction or leadership, something emerged and electrified those who were present. The lesbians and gay men who filled Sheridan Square became empowered by their own hands.

The Inn remained closed after the riots, covered with slogans such as "Gay Rights Now" and "Legalize Gay Bars."

In 1972, Larry Boxx had to leave New York City because of investigations by the Knapp Commission on Police Corruption in the New York Police Force. Ironically, Boxx served as Grand Marshall of the Long Beach, California Gay Pride Parade held May 21, in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

**T**here were gay organizations already in existence at the time of Stonewall: the cautious and conservative Mattachine Society, with chapters nationwide, and the more radical Student Homophile League at Columbia University. Still, it took those who had the least to lose, the black and

*The next person taken from the bar was a lesbian, who struggled with the police every step of the way. This seemed to be the visual cue that motivated the crowd.*

Latino drag queens, to forego "acceptable behavior" and reject obedience to authority to become catalysts for the birth of the modern gay pride movement.

Their model was neither the hesitant nor the rash assertion of their self-proclaimed leadership, but the fury, desperation and pride aborning of the militant black power movement. In 1969, many were giving up powerlessness. And they were, or were following African Americans.

Since the Stonewall Riots, many organizations have used the Stonewall name in tribute to the importance of the event. Many individuals active in the lesbian and gay movement remember when they first heard about the Stonewall Riots, and a few even have authentic personal recollections of the events. Yet no group or individual can claim responsibility for the resistance offered that weekend. The credit belongs to a handful of people who have since been forgotten, jettisoned by a movement that more and more reflects conformity as the years pass.

The names of those who fought that first battle for gay rights have largely passed into obscurity, yet their legacy has been embraced by the entire nation's gay community, with a profound effect on the course of the lives of millions. When former President Reagan used the phrase that he "came out of the closet" (as an opera lover) on nationwide television a few years ago, he had no idea of the origin of the expression he was using, so popular has its usage become.

As Jane Rule said, lesbians and gay men have a gift of love to give to the entire world, so, too, did those anonymous black and Latino gay men and lesbians at the Stonewall Inn, give the precious gift of life to an entire movement.

When the movement began the rule was inclusiveness rather than separation, so unlike many of today's lesbian and gay institutions. Hopefully the lesbian and gay community will become ever more aware of its roots, that the spirit of the first warriors of our modern movement will offer guidance and aid in the battles yet to come.

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# It Happened to Me

*Brawny bodybuilder describes how he got AIDS  
and how he denied it*

**By Roger V. Pamplin, Jr.**

*Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. is a big, strong guy. He's 6 foot, weighs 210 pounds and is 28 years old. He looks like he was born to carry a football. For four years, he was in the Navy. Now, this native of Chicago is a board member of the National Organization of People with AIDS and the Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles. He's a sought after speaker having appeared before audiences in the Los Angeles Unified School District, L.A. County/USC Medical Center, L.A. County Regional Department for the Developmentally Disabled, plus various church and civic organizations. His subject? The clear and present danger of AIDS.*

**H**ere I sit at County/USC Hospital hating the existence of a very small creature. An organism so small it takes a microscope to see it. So deadly, it has claimed thousands of people's lives, many of my friends included. A little fiend who has changed my life in so many ways that I can't keep count. This tiny killer is AIDS and I'm a PWA.

I hate it with all my heart. I sit here crying and thinking why didn't I listen to the news when word of the disease first surfaced? I'm an intelligent, young, black man with a good education. All I had to do was open my eyes and read the information that was there. Or just open my ears and listen.

But I didn't.

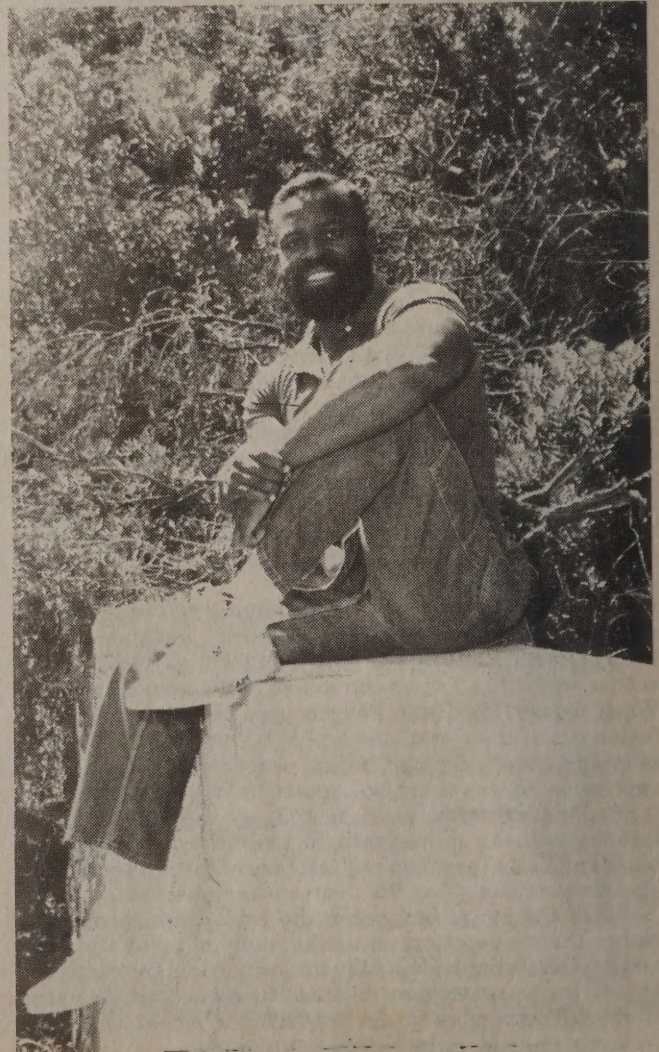
Oh, I'm intelligent all right, too smart for my own damn good. You see, I thought like a whole lot of people think, it'll never happen to me, or that only happens to white limp-wristed gays, or (this is the *big* excuse) I'm always a top, never a bottom man. So I continued my ways, having sex with people I didn't know, working the clubs and adult bookstores, having three-way and four-way sex, smoking dope and drinking until I was so high that all I cared about was who I could have that night. And I figured, why use condoms? I'm safe (I'm a top, remember?). Besides condoms are a pain and I like the feel of flesh against flesh.

I wished I had listened and believed. Here I sit at L.A. County/USC Hospital with my third bout of PCP and a host of other medical problems, to bear witness that anyone can catch AIDS.

**I** was diagnosed with AIDS in June of 1987. My lover (at that time) and myself had been sick with flu-like symptoms for about two months. I went to a neighborhood clinic, while my lover tried home remedies. Because I didn't fit the stereotype of a gay man or an IV drug user, my doctor didn't suggest that I take an HIV test. He said that all I had was a bad case of bronchitis and prescribed an antibiotic. The medicine helped some and I got a little better, but I was still weak and still couldn't breathe well. I was relieved it wasn't the Big A, and went back to work.

My friend continued to deteriorate before my eyes, but refused to seek medical attention, until the night I had to drag him physically to the emergency room. While he was in the hospital, for the first time, I sat and thought rationally. Colds, flu and bronchitis don't last for three and four months, and because of my past behaviors, if anyone was a candidate for AIDS it was me.

So I went and had the HIV test and it came back positive. At about the same time, my friend was diagnosed with ARC. I received counseling at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and was told not to be discouraged because being HIV positive didn't mean I would come down with







*So I continued having sex with people I didn't know, working the clubs and adult bookstores, having three-way and four-way sex, smoking dope and drinking until I was so high all I cared about was who I could have that night.*

AIDS.

So once again I held on to my denial of having AIDS. My friend eventually got better and was released from the hospital, while I had embarked on my acting career. I landed a small part in a movie and had just gotten the lead role in an off-Hollywood play. I was on the top of the world and felt everything was going to be all right.

During rehearsals for the play, I began getting sick again. So I went back to the same doctor. This time, I was honest and told him about my positive test results. He looked me square in the eye and said that he could no longer help me and that I should go to the hospital. The first words out of my mouth were, "Can't that wait? The play opens within the week." The doc said, "No. Go immediately."

Off I went to County General Emergency Room, where I was admitted within an hour (a hospital record). A few days later, I got the news from my new doctor. He said, "Mr. Pamplin, you have PCP pneumonia, which is one of the two major diseases that accompany AIDS." In essence, he said, "You have the Big A."

Two weeks and a holiday later (I spent 4th of July in the hospital), I was released from the hospital and sent home. As I lay in my bed still sick from PCP and the medicines, it hit me. I have AIDS. I am going to die. Not just die, but waste away, die a horrible, painful death. I thought I'd never see my kids grow up, or love someone again, or play in the park with my dogs again. I was scared and angry at the whole world, especially God.

**I**t's been almost two years since then, and I'm still here. My friend, Robbie, wasn't so lucky. He died from PCP two months after his release from the hospital. I'm still here only through the grace of God. I have the best support system a person could have.

First and foremost, I have God in my life. Before I didn't. Then there is my family in Chicago. And my spouse, Deryl, who sticks by me through thick and thin. Then there is my best buddy, Greg Hill, and a host of other friends, too numerous to name. Besides all these loved ones. I have my will to fight, to survive.

Oh, believe me, I get tired of being sick and wish God would call me on home. I've even considered suicide (even to this day). The only reason I haven't done it is because of my strong belief that God isn't done with me yet—that He (or She) still has work for me to accomplish. Maybe it's to educate someone about the HIV infection to keep them from making the same mistakes that I did, or maybe it's to help another PWA through hard times. I really don't know. It's all God's will. I continue to pray that God keeps using me in whatever ways possible—that he continues to give me strength and guidance on this journey through life.

I didn't always feel this way. At first I was angry with God. I mean, what kind of God creates such a monster? What kind of God lets so many people die? And then there is the question we've all asked at one time or another: Why Me? Why me, God? Have I been that bad? Since then I've thought: Why not me? I had an active choice in the matter. I decided not to listen and modify my behavior. So I can't blame anyone but myself: Roger Pamplin. Besides maybe God has a purpose behind this whole thing. Maybe He is using me to reach out to others. I hope so. I wouldn't wish this disease on my worst enemy.

I hope you listen carefully to my story and take heed. I hope you realize anyone can catch AIDS. Protect yourself with knowledge and condoms. And please change your sexual behavior. AIDS is real and it's gonna be around awhile. Remember that blacks (and others) do catch AIDS. I know. I'm a witness.



## U.S. Appeals Court Tells Army to Reinstate Black Soldier but Avoids Hearing Constitutional Issue

SAN FRANCISCO (LAT, NYT)—In a 7-4 decision, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Army to reinstate black openly gay Sgt. Perry Watkins who was discharged for homosexuality in 1984, but refused to rule on whether military regulations against gay and lesbian soldiers are unconstitutional.

Ruling on the narrow issue of the 1984 discharge, the court majority held that it did not need to decide that Watkins's constitutional rights had been violated before ordering him reinstated.

"This is a case where equity cries out and demands that the Army be estopped from refusing to re-enlist Watkins on the basis of his homosexuality," Judge Harry Pregerson wrote for the majority.

"To estop the Army from denying Sgt. Watkins's re-enlistment on the basis of his homosexuality would not disrupt any important military policies or adversely affect internal affairs," the majority said. "It would simply require the Army to continue to do what it has repeatedly done for 14 years with only positive results: re-enlist a single soldier with an exceptionally outstanding military record."

While noting that the courts cannot review all actions by the military, the ruling said the Army had "plainly acted affirmatively in admitting, re-classifying, re-enlisting, retaining and promoting" Sgt. Watkins.

By law, the courts are limited in the cases in which they can interfere with governmental decision-making. Under the doctrine of equitable estoppel, a court must find that the government has engaged in affirmative misconduct, that the government's misconduct will cause a serious injustice and that stopping the government from continuing the wrong will not cause undue harm to the public interest.

In using those criteria, the court adopted a less stringent test for judicial intervention in military affairs than has traditionally been applied—a test which has historically allowed such intervention only when constitutional rights have been violated. Thus, the majority neatly sidestepped the constitutional issue, but was still able to order Watkins reinstated.

But four judges dissented, in large part questioning the majority's exercise of judicial review over military decision-making. Judge Cynthia Holcomb called the decision an "unwarranted application of common law principles to matters within the military's expertise."

"There is no doubt that the majority's intrusion into military affairs unjustified by important federal interests will have a disruptive effect on military discipline," she wrote, accusing the majority of simply ordering Watkins reinstated because of a "steadfast desire" to avoid deciding the constitutional issues in the case.

Indeed, Watkins's attorney, James Lobenz called the court's failure to uphold a earlier ruling by a three-judge panel that provided broad constitutional protections for gay men and lesbians in the military "a blessing in disguise."

"If they had decided the case favorably to Sgt. Watkins on those grounds, the chances would be greatly increased, to a near certainty, that the case would go to the U.S. Supreme Court, and who knows what would happen there," he said.

Only two of the concurring judges, William A. Norris and William C. Canby, held that the court should have granted

Watkins's appeal on the basis of the right of equal protection. The two judges represented the majority when the three-judge panel of the court issued its ruling in February.

"The Army's regulations violate the constitution guarantee of equal protection of the laws because they discriminate against persons of homosexual orientation, a suspect class, and because the regulations are not necessary to promote a legitimate compelling governmental interest," Judge Norris wrote.

An Army spokesperson said it was too early to say whether the reinstatement order would be appealed and declined to comment on the opinion in detail. Lobenz said that Watkins, who currently works for the United States Forestry Service in Seattle, would re-enlist if the Justice Department decides not to appeal the ruling.

Watkins, 40, stated on his pre-induction medical form at the time he was drafted in 1967 that he had homosexual tendencies. He again identified himself as gay on several occasions throughout his Army service, and was allowed to re-enlist, despite the Army's avowed policy against recruiting or retaining gay men and lesbians.

In evaluations throughout his military service, supervisors praised Watkins for doing "a fantastic job." He was, one commanding officer said, "the best clerk I have ever known." Watkins was recommended for discharge after the Army drafted revised regulations in 1981 mandating the discharge of all homosexuals, regardless of merit. He sued for reinstatement and the Army retirement benefits he claimed to have earned.

Lobenz compared the legal doctrine used by the majority to promising a child dessert if he eats his carrots then, after he eats his carrots, telling him the parent has changed his mind, and he won't get dessert after all.

"If the government tells you for years and years, we don't care if you're gay, it's not a bar to your military career, and then you spend 15 years of your life in the military, and then they said, 'Hey, we changed our mind, you're gone,' that's not fair," the lawyer said. By applying the doctrine to the military, he went on, the court broadened its own jurisdiction over military affairs, at least in the 9th Circuit.

The ruling does not affect the cases of other gay men and lesbians discharged from the military that are currently pending in various courts on constitutional grounds.

## L.A. Gets New Magazine

LOS ANGELES—*The Real Read*, a new bimonthly publication for black lesbians and gay men, published its debut issue last month. Edited by long-time activist Ron Grayson and Cleo Manago, co-founders of Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice, the premiere issue featured a number of articles on the 1988 and 1989 Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conferences as well as other subjects, including the late Joe Beam, Ida Wells-Barnett, Earthlife and AIDS. The 44-page publication also included cartoons and poetry.

*The Real Read* can be contacted at Box 29870, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Their phone number is 213-664-0234 or 213-225-6769.



## Curtis Tucker Jr. Gets MECLA Award for Dad

LOS ANGELES—California Assemblyman Curtis Tucker, Sr. was posthumously honored at the 12th Annual Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) awards dinner on May 13. The special tribute was accepted by Curtis Tucker, Jr. who was elected to succeed his father as assemblyman in February representing the Inglewood area.

The senior Tucker was honored for his steadfast and often feisty support for AIDS issues in the Assembly Health Committee, which he chaired until his death last November.

MECLA's co-chair, Bevan Dufty, is the gay fundraising organization's only African American member. Other black politicians in attendance at the \$250-a-plate affair were Los Angeles City Councilman, Bob Farrell and Los Angeles School Boardmember, Rita Walters. State Senator Diane Watson was represented by her chief deputy, Charles Stewart.

## New L.A. Black Lesbian Panel to Meet Monthly

LOS ANGELES—Women who attended last month's planning meeting for a black lesbian conference have voted to meet regularly on the third Sunday of every month from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

The objective, according to Gini Morton, a planning meeting spokesperson, is "to create and renew bonding between black lesbians in California and nationally, empower and support black lesbians, [and assure] that the process of organizing and putting on the conference be inclusive."

Although the Conference will be open to all women regardless of race or sexual preference, planning meetings are open only to black lesbians. For further information, contact Deborah, the chairperson for June's meeting, at 213-969-8046.



As part of its "Hot, Horny and Healthy" workshop program, 20 men from around the country gathered in Los Angeles the weekend of May 26 to learn how to train others to become workshop trainers. Sponsored by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association, Black and White Men Together, the workshops show how safe sex can be both erotic and fun. Assembled for a group photo at the weekend's concluding picnic are (first row, from left) Kevin Jones; George Bellinger Jr.; Kim Sharp; Laverne Middleton; Harold Robinson; A. Billy S. Jones; (second row) John Teamer; Les Everett; Bobby Smith, West Coast coordinator; Leon White; Gavin Morrow-Hall; James Credle; (third row) Reginald Williams, project director; Tony Horne; Duncan Teague; Al Cunningham; R. J. Johnson; Roger Pamplin Jr.; Phill Wilson, health education trainer; and Eric Perez, East Coast coordinator.



# Winfrey Rumor Proves Untrue, Reporter Fired, Papers Removed; Beau Said to Reconsider Union

CHICAGO—A rumor that TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey caught her fiancé and her male hairdresser together in a compromising situation is apparently untrue. Reports confirm that Winfrey, boyfriend Stedman Graham and beau-tician André Walker were in separate locations at the time the alleged confrontation occurred.

The rumor has reportedly given Graham second thoughts about marrying the TV star and living in the "fishbowl" of public scrutiny, according to the *Star*. It has left him worried about the story's impact on his 12-year-old daughter, the paper reports.

The rumor first surfaced in print on May 14, when Ann Gerber included the following item in her "On the Town" column which appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times*: "Can it be true that the lover of one of our richest women was found in bed with her hairdresser when she returned early from a trip abroad? The battle that ensued brought her screaming out onto Lake Shore Drive, shocking her staid neighbors."

According to one unconfirmed report, the allegation, which surfaced in early May and spread through the streets of Chicago before being picked up by Gerber, had been concocted by a group of employees at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange "to see how fast a rumor could spread."

Eventually it spread to *Entertainment Tonight* where, on May 18, it was picked up and given national exposure. Reported TV anchorwoman Mary Hart: "Rumors claim the woman is popular talk show host Oprah Winfrey. They say she found boyfriend Stedman Graham in bed with her hairdresser in her Chicago condo." Hart did, however, take away what she gave by adding: "At this point we at *Entertainment Tonight* have uncovered nothing to suggest that it is true."

At first, the three steadfastly refused to dignify the gossip with a response. But as the rumor refused to die and culminated in the *Entertainment Tonight* report, the following day Winfrey made an on-air denial in front of her TV audience. Without specifying the details, she referred to "a rumor that I think deserves addressing" and added: "It is a vicious, malicious lie and no part of it, absolutely no part of it is true...I have chosen to speak up because this rumor has become so widespread and so vulgar that I just wanted to go on record and let you know that it is not true..."

She went on: "Those of you who are repeating it, those of you who are listening to it, those of you who will hear it for the first time and are now saying 'What is she talking about?' There is absolutely no truth whatsoever to any part of it. It is vulgar and I also believe that it is evil."

The rumor apparently mutated into several versions. In one, Winfrey walked into her condo at the Ritz-Carlton, caught her 33-year old fiancé in bed with her hairdresser, grabbed a butcher knife and stabbed Graham. According to this version, he was taken, bleeding, to the 15th floor of nearby Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The hospital has no record of Graham being treated.

In another version, the incident occurred at Graham's apartment.

In another version, Winfrey shot twice into the ceiling.

In another version, Winfrey shot Graham repeatedly.

In another version, Winfrey's trip abroad became a trip from the West Coast.

But the building's security guards have denied knowledge of any such incident, as have neighbors in surrounding buildings. Chicago police also have no record of any incident involving Winfrey or Graham.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reporter who put the story in

print has responded to the controversy by saying, "I'm very fond of Oprah, and I feel very badly about this. It all began with a blind item in my Sunday column." In her column three days later, Gerber denied the rumor mentioning Winfrey and Graham by name.

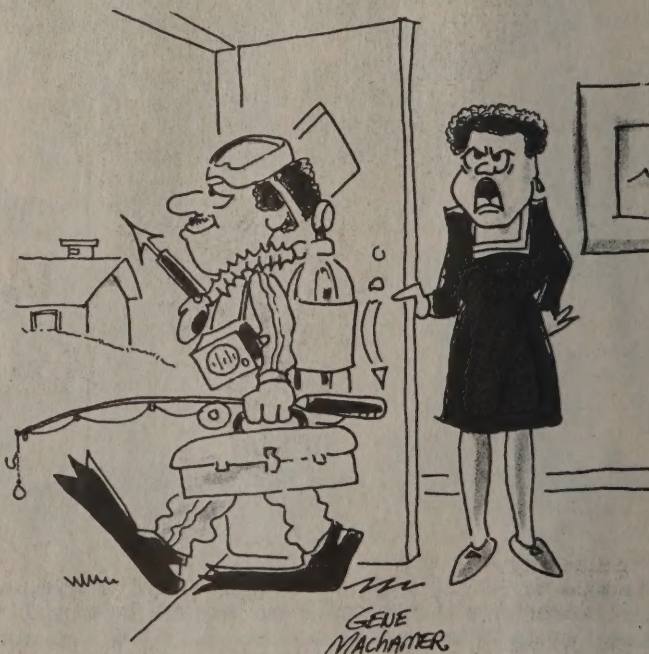
Nine days following her article, *Sun-Times* vice president and executive editor Kenneth Towers fired Gerber "because of basic differences between himself and Ms. Gerber regarding the journalistic standards used in producing her column."

## Los Angeles Panel OKs AIDS Training Funds

LOS ANGELES—City Council has unanimously approved a bill allocating \$600,000 for the recruitment and training of home health aides for PWAs and people with ARC (PWARCs). The two-year contract with Community Bilingual Home Health programs in Highland Park will be financed from the city's share of federal Job Training Partnership Act funding.

Trainees in the program will receive classroom instruction and clinical training leading to employment with home health agencies providing in-home care to PWAs and PWARCs.

Training will be offered at the following six sites around the city: Arroyo Vista Family Health Center (Highland Park); Westminster Neighborhood Center (South Central); Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center (Hollywood); West Hollywood Park; Minority AIDS Project (South Central) and El Proyecto Del Barrio (San Fernando Valley).



"Don't come back telling me you fished all weekend on Fire Island unless you bring me back something to fry!"



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# Waters Tapped for Marshall in Pride Parade; Carl Bean, Virginia Uribe to Receive Top CSW Honors

By Mark Haile  
BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—The 1989 Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade will be led by Maxine Waters, black member of the California State Assembly, as Grand Marshall. Waters was selected for the honor in tribute to her tireless dedication in support of the lesbian and gay community.

The Christopher Street West parade is the third largest in California, with more than 300 vehicles and more than 1000 men, women and children marching. Nearly 300,000 spectators are expected to line Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood for the parade on Sunday, June 25. The procession will be carried live via satellite to cable TV stations across the United States.

The Christopher Street West Festival will honor Rev. Carl Bean of Unity Fellowship Church and Minority AIDS Project as Man of the Year, and Virginia Uribe, founder of Project 10, as Woman of the Year.

Rev. Bean will join Rev. Nancy Wilson, Rev. Ron and Sandy Scott, Rabbi Denise Eger, and other spiritual leaders of the lesbian and gay community in conducting an interdenominational healing service for people with AIDS, ARC, HIV infection, and other illnesses on Saturday, June 24 at 3 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

For the first time, this year's celebration will include a fireworks show on Saturday evening at 10 p.m. The two days of festivities will also include a wide variety of non-stop entertainment on two stages, the largest open air disco in the country, and more than 250 booths offering information, food, arts and crafts, games and prizes.

Among participating organizations of special interest to the black lesbian and gay community are the Minority AIDS Project, Catch One Disco, Unity Fellowship Church, Connexus, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, Black and White Men Together/L.A., Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and BLK.

"It is an honor to be selected as the 1989 Grand Marshall for the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade," stated Assembly-member Waters upon the announcement. "The accomplishments of the lesbian and gay community have contributed



Maxine Waters

to the advancement of human rights throughout the world."

The eighth annual Run for Lesbian and Gay Pride will be held the Sunday prior to the parade on June 18 in Griffith Park.

The festival will open on Saturday, June 24 at noon, closing at midnight, re-opening on Sunday, June 25 from 10 am to 11 p.m.

The parade will step off at 12:30 p.m. from the corner of Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Boulevards, marching west to San Vicente Boulevard and West Hollywood Park, the site of the festival.

The 1988 parade and festival were able to provide more than \$100,000 through community grants to lesbian and gay organizations across Southern California.

## Ousted Members Form New Police Liaison Group

By L. Lloyd Jordan  
BLK Contributing Writer

LOS ANGELES—Members of minority oriented organizations and others have founded a new coalition to address law enforcement issues. The new group, Advocates for Better Law Enforcement (ABLE), intends to work with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Division in West Hollywood for recruitment of openly lesbian and gay officers and to oppose harassment of gay bars and individuals.

ABLE has been meeting in Silverlake since its founders were expelled from the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force (GLPATF) in April when Stonewall Democratic Club executive committee members seized control of the Task Force to re-install one of their members, Marshal Phillips, as co-chair. Rather than continue to challenge Phillips and the election process, expelled members decided to end the dispute by starting a rival coalition.

ABLE includes individual members as well as representa-

tives of Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos, Black and White Men Together and Harvey Milk Democratic Club. The founders hope they will be able to develop an acceptable gay recruitment and retention plan for LAPD, do a needs assessment of gay/police relations and document police harassment of gay civilians or officers. ABLE is already working with the City of West Hollywood on recruitment issues and has planned an open forum for early August.

Neither the old nor the new coalition is any longer discussing reconciliation. GLPATF's acting co-chairwoman, Ivy Bottini, who is also Stonewall's president, has publicly welcomed the new organization. Throughout the controversy she has maintained that she is willing to address all issues of concern to the expelled lesbians and gays of color, with the exception of Marshal Phillips' retention of the co-chairmanship.

"There is nothing that would lead me to believe that she even realizes what was done. The level of insensitivity is so great that I don't even think she gets it yet," said Mario Soliz-Marich, acting spokesman of ABLE.



# Harvey Milk Demo Club Leaves Cop Task Force

LOS ANGELES—The Southern California Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club announced that it had resigned its position on and withdrawn its support from the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force.

In a statement issued to the press and later published as an ad in *The News*, the club stated: "Through vote stacking and covert maneuvering, a totally unrepresentative 'leadership' faction has recently and illegitimately taken control and subverted the mission of the organization. The shameful events over the last few months have demonstrated a complete contempt on their part for issues of any peoples other than their cronies."

The statement continued: "The disgraceful actions of and derogatory comments from Task Force co-chair Marshal Phillips (also member, Stonewall Democratic Club Executive Committee) and interim co-chair Ivy Bottini (also president, Stonewall Democratic Club) have resulted in the perception of racism and elitism among participants and observers alike. The Harvey Milk Democratic Club cannot condone the actions of the 'leadership' nor can we abide the slightest hint of racism or ulterior motives."

The statement concluded: "Their conduct is indefensible, embarrassing, reprehensible, and totally intolerable in our community, and we at Harvey Milk Democratic Club refuse to accept it."

The Southern California Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club is one of the founding members of the new formed police liaison group, Advocates for Better Law Enforcement.

## Essex Hemphill Seeks Black Gay Manuscripts

PHILADELPHIA—Essex Hemphill, poet and publisher of Be Bop Books, Washington, D.C., will complete the editing of *Brother to Brother: New Writing by Black Gay Men* on which Joseph Beam was at work at the time of his death. Barbara Smith, writer and publisher of Kitchen Table Press will assist in the reading of submitted materials.

Manuscripts by black gay men about the black gay male experience are being sought.

Manuscripts may be submitted in the following forms: Essays and short fiction (up to 5,000 words), poetry (no more than five poems), brief excerpts from plays and novels, letters, journal entries, performance pieces, narratives and interviews.

Subjects of interest include: coming out, coping and intimate relationships, family interactions (particularly fathers), interactions with the communities in which we live, rural living, youth substance abuse, spousal abuse, the military, incarceration, the arts, gay activism, AIDS, oral histories regarding black gay life in previous decades, how to create positive self-images, male bonding/brotherhood, aging and erotica.

The deadline for submission of poetry and prose manuscripts has been extended to June 30, 1989.

All manuscripts must be typed and doubled-spaced (no exceptions) on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper with the contributor's name on each page. Contributors should also include their phone number. Manuscripts should be sent in duplicate, with sufficient return postage, to: Brother to Brother, Box 30024, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

## BLK VEIL

### PHILIP BLACKWELL

Philip Blackwell, 37, playwright, actor and athlete, died of complications from AIDS February 14 in N.Y. Raised in Minneapolis, he graduated from the University of Minnesota and earned his master's from Tufts in 1980. He was *The Advocate's* first black cover model in 1975. In the 1986 Gay Games II competition, Blackwell earned medals in long distance races. Blackwell co-founded the Twin Cities Black Theater Alliance and was vice president of Data Arts, Ltd. He is survived by his parents, sister and brother.

### DALLAS CLEMMONS

Dallas Clemmons was born June 28, 1951 and died May 14, 1989 in Clarksburg, Mississippi. A nurse, Clemmons lived in San Francisco and was a member of BWMT/SF. He is survived by his mother and grandmother.

### CHRISTOPHER DEANE

Christopher Deane died of complications from AIDS at the age of 39 on May 13 at Brownlie Hospice in Los Angeles. He held a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and sang opera. Deep, resonant voice was a delight to the ear. A long time employee of the L.A. Public Library, he often participated in BWMT/LA activities. His resonant bass will be deeply missed.

### TROY JOHNSON

Gordon Troy Johnson died of complications from AIDS May 14, 1989 in Los Angeles. Born in Detroit, Johnson held a master's in social work from Arizona State University. He worked for Los Angeles County with the developmentally disabled, and had opened his own firm when he was diagnosed in 1988. Johnson had been active with NAACP and the Hollywood-Sunset Community Clinic. He is survived by his father, foster mother and lover of eight years, Bruce Coplen.

### ROBERT JOE HEWITT

Funeral services were held May 25, 1989 for Robert Joe Hewitt who died May 19, 1989 in Los Angeles at the age of 36. A licensed journeyman plumber, he graduated from Jordan High and attended Los Angeles City College. He is survived by his mother, wife, three children, two sisters, two brothers, nephews and nieces.

### ARTHUR LOMBARD

Arthur Lombard died in New Orleans on May 12, 1989 of complications from AIDS. He was 29. He is survived by his brother, Juan, among others.

### ERNESTO G. PHILPOTTS

Dr. Ernesto G. Philpotts died April 21 after living with AIDS for more than a year and a half. Philpotts, who was born March 11, 1948 in Colon City, Panama, worked with the Philadelphia Department of Health and Human Services for nearly nine years. He founded the Finesse Modeling School. Philpotts was an affiliate member of ADODI/Philadelphia, and was active in AIDS-related organizations, including We the People and the Burning Bush. The latter two are accepting donations in his memory.



# It's Gonna Be A Catch One Summer!

Memorial Day Weekend  
Summer Kick-Off!  
After Hours Party!  
Sunday, May 28

Catalina Boat Cruise!  
Friday, July 28

Christmas in July!  
Tuesday, July 18

PICO BEACH!  
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday  
beginning June 4!  
Come dressed to get wet!

July 4th!  
Holiday Weekend  
BLOW OUT!

Coming Home for Friends II  
The concert of the year!  
Minority AIDS Project benefit  
at the Shine  
Saturday, July 8

Juneteenth Celebration!  
Sunday, June 18

Support Catch One's  
Float & Burger Stand  
Gay Pride Week Festival  
West Hollywood  
June 24 & 25

## CATCH ONE DISCO

4067 W. PICO BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90019



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

By now everyone knows what our infallible sources in Chicago's Southside hair salons have been telling us for weeks: poor, dear **Oprah** could not possibly have caught her delicious, live-in lover, **Stedman Graham**, in *flagrante delicto* between her own silk sheets with her hairdresser, **André Walker**—'cuz André, well-known in gay circles, is not at all Stedman's type!...No, dears it's *not* true: owner **Joe Beasley** assures us that the **Caper Room**, the Inglewood, bar just south of L.A., where "five no-trump" is considered *low* as an opening whist bid, but low bids with men get you over, is not up for sale to the highest bidder. Where the rumor got started Joe says he can't imagine...What dashing TV talk show host/actor recently moved from his West Hollywood condo just off Santa Monica Blvd. and, despite the rainbow of women he always had in tow, once stepped into a gay neighbor's flat to check out his leather drag?...Proflin' on Sunday in Los Angeles is still best done at **Jewel's Room**, where **Désirée** recently turned 'em all out in white pantsuit and boater, blonde tresses and cleavage festooned with a black rose. But **Alex** styled right back in a jet suit accessoried in gold, her hair sheared short on the sides, but rising in an angled sharkfin on top. **Brenda** was equally sleek in yellow broadshoulders, her hair erupting over her forehead—and her hand in **Alex's**. **Judie Jones** gave us that oldtime cabaret on stage, then let her son, **Kenneth**, take the mike. His solo version of "What's Goin' On" was sensuously soulful, then we got it in Dolby Sound when **Unique** joined her voice to his from the backroom, and the spontaneous duo drowned us in get-down sound. Unique's perfect hair, skin and figure were wound up tight in a black dress so short her shoulder bag hung below her hem. She moved like satin, smiled silk, sang like a siren—and talked about her agent. But sitting alone and unadorned, rapt in the music, was **Christine Tripp of Makeda**, looking lovelier, sweeter than we've ever seen her...Also in L.A.: Eat your hearts out, **Rage** and **Studio One**. **Madonna** and **Warren Beatty**, who manage to keep their names in the tabloids if not on the marquees, are hangin' out at **Catch One** these days, where, no doubt they're indulging in a common fantasy of Anglo stars—imagining they've just discovered a dangerously chic cultural happening *à la* Harlem in the '20s....**Ron Grayson** of *The Real Read* is embarrassing all those folks who're using AIDS as an excuse not to keep themselves up. Girl-friend has a new hairdo and wardrobe to flatter that new slim waist, and is hotter now than before ever meeting Mr. HIV, which shows you just can't let a no-good man get you down...What d'ya s'pose **Eddie Murphy**, **Michael Spinks**, **Luther Vandross** and **Mike Tyson** are all doing together on June 10 in N.Y. City? Co-hosting **Dionne Warwick's** "That's What Friends Are For" Concert at Lincoln Center to benefit kids with AIDS. Wonder if she's having to twist Eddie's arm? Need help, Dionne?...Love is still busting out all over at L.A.'s **Unity Fellowship Church**. On the 14th it was announced before the congregation that **Frankie Lennon** of MAP and **Kaseema** are gonna walk down that aisle together...At **Jewel Williams'** standing-room-only **Catch One** banquet in celebration of her 50th birthday, **Lady BJ** blew "I Sing This Song To You," and the children wept. Afterwards, Jewel one-upped **Rev. Carl Bean** by not only proposing to **Rue Thaïs** in mid-program from *her* sanctuary (as Rev did only last month from *his*) but then presented her fiancée with a diamond-encrusted ring. Don't look for your invite to the union ceremony 'till September 'cuz the search

has just begun for an edifice grand enough for the occasion...But the Rev was not to be outdone. He arrived back in town from Italy with a gift for the man he's been courting, **Gene Cornelius**. Next day, in church, 'Nelius relieved everyone's suspense (yawn) by announcing, "To end further speculation, I received an engagement ring last night brought from Venice. I have decided to accept it." We would too if an 18 carat boulder dropped on us from above...Did'ya hear **Paul Davis** of **X-Calibre** signed on **Minority AIDS Project** as health education manager? Did'ya hear MAP's staff didn't get their invitations to Paul's May 19th Red & White birthday bash until they met his salary demands? Never happened...Wisdom from rap master **Ice T**: "The bottom line of the gangs is to get girls. Men only work behind women. Men's lives revolve around what's gonna get them the women. And that's what gets women, acting macho." Guess that's why there are no gay gang bangers. And we thought it was because you had to pass a stupidity test...Guess what superstar's dad likes to open Spanish flies in L.A. boy bars?...**AIDS Project Los Angeles** is looking more and more colorful all the time, what with **Don** and **Michelle Williams** (unrelated) on staff, plus **Jai** and **Ada Page** (married) newly hired. Jai and Ada are one of those crazyfun couples who always carry their smiles with them, which black folks in the bowels of APLA need to do. Their new boss, **Steve Bennett**, has been oozing southern charm all over black gay and AIDS activists. Now if he could just lose that Dixie drawl...When **Phill Wilson** told us he was calling from Kaiser Hospital last week where he was being checked out for chest pains, we were so busy scolding him for running himself ragged that we forgot to wish him a speedy recovery. But the doctors confirmed our diagnosis of exhaustion (and mild pericarditis), and ordered him to REST for the first time in two years. Hear that **Phill**? R-E-S-T...On the literary scene, **Alyson Publications** has just released *The Buccaneer*, a tale of white outlaws who love to pirate booty, especially if its black. *The Alyson Almanac* of gay trivia, while diverting, allots more lines to West Hollywood porn star-cum-politician **Steve Schulte** than to **Bayard Rustin**, and omits the fact that **Audre Lorde** is black. **Essex Hemphill's** new book, *Soft Targets*, is due out any moment, and **Asotto Saint's Stations**, a poetry collection, is in print by **Galiens Press**. New Jersey's **Vega Studios** is coming out with a new July anthology, *Men of Color: An Essay on the Black Male Couple*, illustrating in poetry, prose and photography the fierce/fragile beauty of black gay male bonding...T to spill? Dial us at 213/410-0808 and whisper in our ear. Your friends'll never know, unless of course, they read lips...



Birthday Girl **Jewel Williams** (right) with her intended, **Rue Thaïs**. Photo by **Bill Doggett**.



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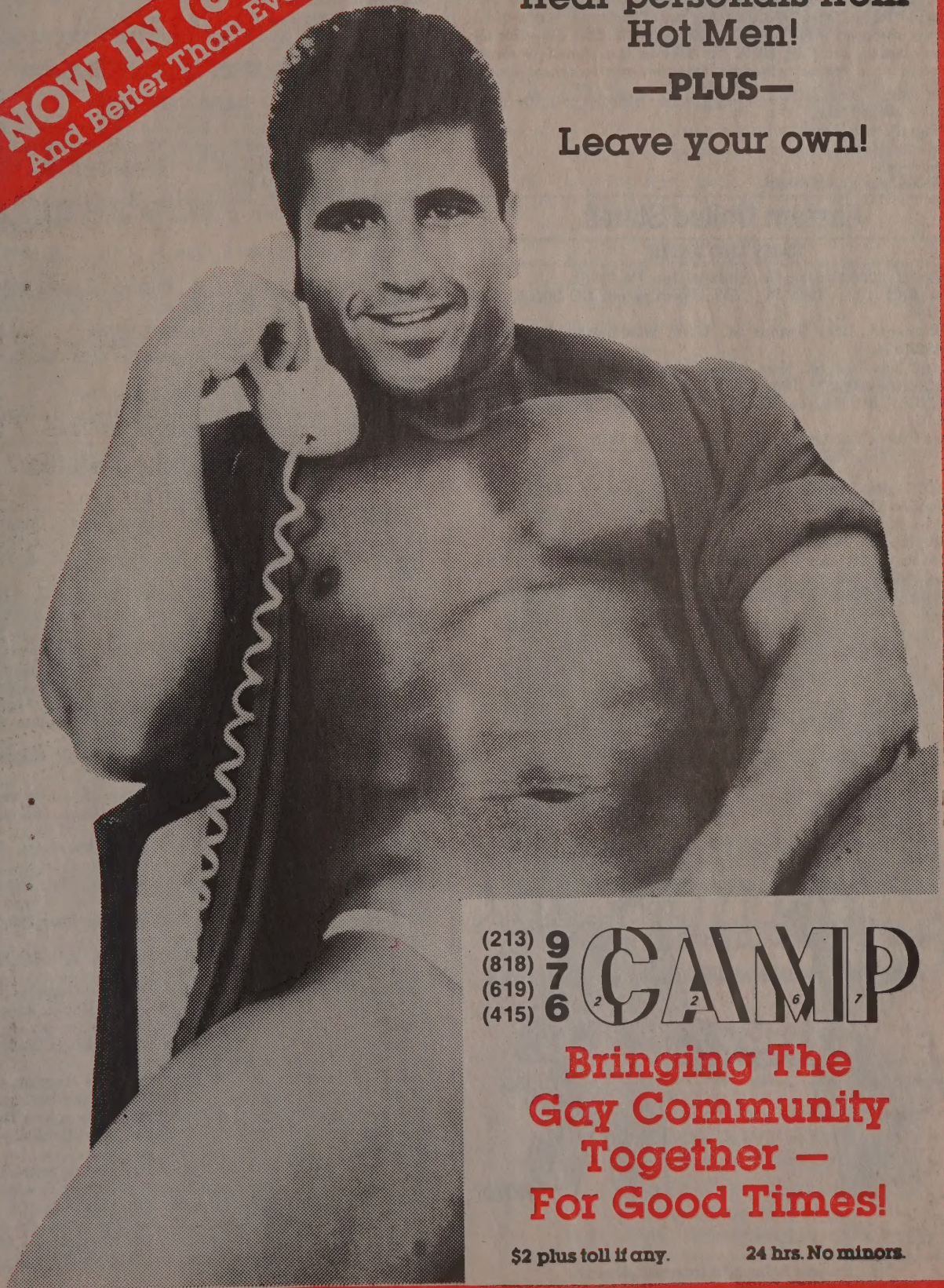


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# BLK LIST

If you want your organization *Blk Listed*, drop a note to Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the July issue is June 19, 1989. The *Blk List* is designed for events that occur on a regular schedule. One-time events appear on the *Blk Board*.

- \*Somewhat black
- \*\*Significantly black
- \*\*\*Mostly black
- \*\*\*\*All black
- †Mixed gay and straight

## Eastern United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Allegro II**, 2056 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
**Brass Rail**, 811 - 13th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202-628-6496.  
**Clubhouse\*\***, 1296 Upshur St., N.W., Washington, DC 20011, 202-882-7471.  
**Kellers\***, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014.  
**Mt. Morris Baths\*\*\***, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035.  
**Nob Hill**, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington, DC 20010, 202-797-1101.  
**Smart Place**, 922 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**ADODI/Philadelphia**, Box 19132, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
**Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.  
**BEBASHI**, Box 26388, Philadelphia, PA 19141, 215-546-4140  
**Gay Men of African Descent**, Box 2519, New York, NY 10185-0021, 718-260-9541.  
**National Minority AIDS Council**, 714 G St., S.E., Washington,

DC 20003, 202-544-1076.

**Salsa Soul Sisters**, Box 1119, New York, NY

**Zami**, Box 7289, Sta. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X9, Canada

## Central United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Club La Ray\*\*\***, 3150 N. Halstead St., Chicago, IL 60657, 312-525-3150. Sundays and Tuesdays 11 p.m. Amateur talent show.  
**411 Club\*\*\*†**, 411 E. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-684-9387. Days straight, nights gay.  
**Golden Lantern\*\***, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70116.  
**Jeffrey Pub\*\*\***, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, 312-363-8555.  
**Martin's Den\*\*\***, 5550 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60621, 312-363-9470.  
**Rialto\*\*\***, 14 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60604, 312-427-9893.  
**Tina's RT1**, 1843 N. 20th, Milwaukee, WI 53205, 414-933-7577.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Ebony Connection**, 227 Congress St. #125, Austin, TX 78767, 512-478-DRUM.  
**IRUWA**, Box 19146, Minneapolis, MN 55419  
**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219, 313-537-0484.

## Western United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Annex\*\***, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.  
**Basgo's\***, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.  
**Blue and Gold\*\***, 136 Turk St., San Francisco, CA 94102.  
**Cabel's Reef\*\***, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612.  
**Caper Room\*\*\***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403. Mondays 10 p.m. Sir Marshall; Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male exotic dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Thursdays 9:30 p.m. Caper Connection show; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.  
**Catch One\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.  
**Cottage\*\*\*†**, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.  
**Cover Girl Club\*\*\*†**, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595. Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)  
**Eagle\***, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252.  
**Eagle Creek Saloon\***, 1884 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94104.  
**Foster's Club Penthouse\*\***, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd. #3, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-837-5881.  
**Griff's\***, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889. Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.  
**Horizon\*\*\***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678. Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Sundays and Wednesdays 10 p.m. The LaVerne Show; Mondays 9 p.m. Men's night and Gong Show with DJ; Tuesdays Wellfare Night; Thursdays Male exotic dancers.  
**Jewel's Room\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.  
**Midtowne Spa\*\***, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price admission.  
**Peacock Alley\*\***, 1271 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103.  
**Pendulum\*\***, 4146 Eighteenth St., San Francisco, CA 94114.  
**Rage\***, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7055. Tuesdays Gong Show, and 10 p.m.-2 a.m. London Life; 3rd Wednesday Fashion Show.



"Hi. Do you believe in interracial sex?"



**Study\*\***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-9551. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour.

#### RESTAURANTS

**Carriage Trade\***, 8225 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, 213-655-6425.

**Casita del Campo\***, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-662-4255.

**Crest\***, 3725 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-660-3645.

**Images\***, 3938 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-665-7390.

#### ORGANIZATIONS

**Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group**, 168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Saturdays 5 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 6 p.m.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-667-2549. Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-274-3398. 1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Jack**, Box 83515, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515, 213-338-1516.

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles**, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716. Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 2nd Sunday 4 p.m. HIV+ Support pot luck dinner (location varies); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering committee meeting (location varies).

**Black and White Men Together/National Association**, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.

**Black and White Men Together/San Francisco**, 2269 Market St. #199, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice**, Box 341412, Los Angeles, CA 90034, 213-664-0234.

**Gentlemen Concerned**, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

**Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women**, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805. Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color; Wednesdays Women of color support group.

**Makeda**, 1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105. Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays 5 p.m. Women's rap group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" black women support group.

**Minority AIDS Project**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking support group; Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Aerobic class; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS support group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 7 p.m. Life Beyond Bars; Thursdays 7 p.m. American Sign Language class; Fridays 1 p.m. Family members of AIDS patients support group.

**Planning Committee for a Black Lesbian Conference**, 213-204-3894. Sundays 2:30-4:30 p.m. Black lesbians only (Held at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd.).

**Unity Fellowship Church**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship service; Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible study; Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**, 4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B, Compton, CA 90221, 213-639-3068. Thursdays 7 p.m. Positive approach to wellness support group for PWAs or HIV+s (Held at Watts Health Medical Holistic Center, 7514 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044).

**Womyn of Colors**, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205, Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Z and Z Productions**, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.



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## Next Month in BLK An Interview with Rev Carl Bean Prime Mover Behind Unity Fellowship Church and the Minority AIDS Project

Gay & Lesbian Literature

## A DIFFERENT LIGHT

4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029 (213) 668-0629

1989 LESBIAN WRITERS SERIES  
Saturday, June 17 at 8 p.m.

Carolyn Weathers • Georgia Cotrell

1989 GAY WRITERS SERIES  
Sunday, June 18 at 7 p.m.

Micael Tapia • Robert Waldron • Mike Varady



# BLK MARKET

## SERVICES

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Personal health and fitness instructor. Phone Maleko at 213-465-2551. (7)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

AIDS Nursing Care: RNs, LVNs, CNAs, all shifts. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (E)

Field Director Sought. National lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual to build and maintain constituent mail/pressure grassroots system. Recruit, motivate and administer local organizers and supervise Regional Field Reps to expand mailgram program, constituent lobbying, house meeting program and other grassroots activities. Strong people skills, detail-oriented, willing to travel critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (7)

Messenger/driver needed for consortium of three companies. Full time days. Buzzer provided. Must be dependable, have economical car and clean driving record. Bring proof of insurance and DMV printout to interview. Call Bobby. 213-667-2549. (7)

Outreach Coordinator/South Central Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Foundation, AIDS, hospice, health experience, self-starter. Resume to AHF, 1800 N. Argyle Ave. #304, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (7)

Photo coordinator to secure photographs from black (and otherwise) gay and lesbian (and otherwise) movers and shakers all over the country. Your own hours. No experience necessary, and almost no pay, but you do get to learn the business free. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Recovery Program Manager—gay/lesbian alcohol treatment facility seeks experienced and certified personnel. Perfer recovering, non-smoking gay or lesbian. Call or write for job description. \$19-24K negotiable. Van Ness Recovery House, 1919 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068. 213-463-4266. (8)

Regional Field Rep Sought. National

lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual (to be based in Chicago or North Carolina) to build regional grassroots mail/pressure system. Coordinate house meeting project, seek local groups to canvass community events to expand mailgram program. People skills, detail-oriented and assertive self-starter critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (7)

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (E)

The Minority AIDS Project needs dependable individuals to volunteer in our vital work helping our minority community. Qualifications: a big heart, time, and lots of love. Please call Rudy Carn at 213-936-4949. God loves you. (7)

Volunteer coordinator to keep track of the people who want to help make BLK fly. No experience necessary, and almost no pay. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Positive Image—A nationwide communications network for men who are HIV+, have ARC or AIDS and those who want to communicate with them. Free information. SASE. P/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (7)

AIDS, ARC, HIV+ social group. 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Castro area, San Francisco. Make friends or find a lover. No \$. Free personals list. Call Michael. 415-255-0614. (E)

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Step, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (7)

San Diego AIDS Project craves black input. Call 619-543-0300. (7)

Ball Club—A nationwide communications network for men who have 'em and men who want 'em. Free information. SASE. BC/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (7)

## WANTED

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also acceptable. Send with SASE

to Revon Kyle Banneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

Women of color wanted for study of female sexuality. If you are lesbian or previously lesbian, but now with men, write Study, 1032 Irving St., Box 443, San Francisco, CA 94122. (7)

Nude Talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (9)

Black male nude models and men that like/desire to show their stuff. New! Black Stallion magazine needs your photos and stories, ads, etc. Also enter our "big dick" contest!!! Send photos to: C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., L.A., CA 90028 (9)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for a roommate for 3-bedroom house. \$350 month including utilities. Call 213-960-7748. (7)

## FOR SALE

Hot Black Men—The East Coast's best black men are in photographs by Weems-Works, now available in erotic photosets or art prints. For sample and brochure, mail request stating age (over 21) and \$10 to David Weems, c/o Weems-Works, Box 22886, Baltimore, MD 21203 (TF)

AIDS—Build up immune system. Preventive treatment. Send money order for \$25 to D. El, Box 21833, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or send SASE for information. (7)

Gay male video available by mail order. Send \$1.00 for list to: W. Hall, Box 40496, Dept. Blk, Pasadena, CA 91114-7496. (9)

Free info for hot sex! More excitement and pleasure! Huge selection of top quality adult male products. Save 30% to 70% off! Confidential. Your name and address not released to anyone. CBG, Dept. 06, Box 5225, N. Hollywood, CA 91616. (E)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Australian Rick, blond, blue, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40, offers hot massage, hot spa, warm conversation. Only \$40 in. 213-259-8485. (8)

Every inch! is brought alive and relaxed. \$50 and travel if outside Holly-

wood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (10)

Non-sexual massage by hot BiWM, 195 lbs., 5'10" bodybuilder, big thighs, bubble butt. Certified, with table. \$40/hour. 213-204-6384. (7)

Very attractive black body-builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

WM, 45, seeks dominant BM for good times. Doug. 604-263-3991 (Vancouver). (9)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Am interested in meeting people who like meeting people. Am 47 years old. Like easy-going, yet serious people. Love nature. G.E., Box 2202, St. Augustine, FL 32085 (9)

Professional GWM seeks BM friend. Be adventurous! Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (9)

WM, 32, would like to meet black American, African or Arab for possible friendship. Mike 212-477-5647. (7)

GWM, 40s, 5'7", 135 lbs., G/p, F/a/p wishes to meet masculine black and/or Hispanic men to mutually explore the possibilities from lust to love. Write: Skip, 22 Benson Ave., Pennsville, NJ 08070. (9)

Where have all the older GBM gone? Sincere GWM seeks friend/lover. Box 502, Kenmore, Boston, MA 02215. (8)

GBM, 30, 6'2", 210 lbs., masculine, monogamous, nice-looking, New York City, seeks Puerto Rican, Dominican, South American man, 30-40, nationwide for friendship, relationship. Write with photo. Michael Guthrie, Box 684083, Corona-A, NY 11368. (E)

Attractive GWM, deep blue eyes, beard and moustache, 5'9", seeks masculine GBM who knows himself. Honest, sincere and a good sense of humor. Write with photo. Bruce, Box 2291, Meriden, CT 06450. (8)

Total concrete structure along south Texas Rio Grande available to small-assed, AIDS-tested, dope-free, sex-within-house-only, honest youths. Box 475, Big Pine Key, FL 33043. (E)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53 years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or



active. 40 to 70. No drugs, feds, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ 08607-2223. (9)

Black male, educated, cultured, refined, interested in corresponding and meeting compatible males, any race or religion. Rev. R. J. Strickland, Box 72, Boston, MA 02126-0072. (7)

### PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

Attractive, hot, horny white male seeking attractive, hot black male with a smooth bubble butt to work safely. No drugs, feds or feds. Send photo. Box 7415, Dallas, TX 75209 (9)

Texas BM seeks friends and possibly more from across the country. No drugs or stereotypes. Am mature and professional and seek the same. A Jones, 5951 Melody Lane, Dallas, TX 75231 (9)

Hung like a horse (beercan thick) and can make me take it all? Man enough to invite me into your bed and plow open my bubble? I wanna be taken by aggressive, uninhibited, insatiable black stud like you! You are successful, professional and workalcoholic. A gutsy top with real need and ability to take charge of my body. Me: honest, sincere, freebird, successful, work-alcoholic, 5'6", 145, 44, dark, hairy, Indian/Italian. Details, picture to: Robert, Box 14042, Chicago, IL 60614. (E)

Attractive GWM, 27, seeks handsome, straight-appearing GBM. I'm tall dark and slim; professional; equally enjoy home and nightlife. Prefer tall and muscular, fun-loving guys. Box 486, Danville, IL 61834. (8)

Gay white mid-westerner, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., looking for black men for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (8)

WM, 50, seeks BM, any age, for sincere intimate relationship. No drugs. F/A/P. No G. Anxious to please you and be friends. Bill, Box 9645, Minneapolis, MN 55458. (8)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

### PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160 lbs. quiet, pleasant natured, drug-free, wishes to meet black, married, educated with good body for regular meetings with utmost discretion and safety assured. You be 6'2", + 30-40 yrs., big skin 7+, top, and be genuine, sincere and who wants the best of both worlds. Photo appreciated and returned. No games. Only the serious need apply. BLK Box #4. (9)

Asian, 33, 5'9", seeks athletic 20-35 for safe relationship. 415-827-9973. (9)

2 GWM seek well-hung GBM for safe sex. Box 74030, L.A., CA 90004 (9)

BM wants to meet a very good-looking WM who is mentally and physically capable. Serious men only. 213-969-TAN-U. (7)

Handsome, 60, top, British, seeks creative tongue. Hairy a plus. Pic/phone. Under 45. 8721 Santa Monica #155, L.A. 90069 (8)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (7)

GWM interested in getting together with a top GBM, well hung 9"+, to hump these tight buns at my place in the San Gabriel Valley for a good relationship and good safe sex. If interested, please call 818-369-6350. If no answer, please leave message. You won't be sorry. (8)

GWM, near Long Beach, 53, 6'4", 185, firm bod, intensely erotic, healthy HIV+, seeks very hot top, with flat stomach and thick 8+, for frequent fun. Must be self-supporting. Any race/age. If your mind and heart are as good as your cock, maybe we can become lovers. BLK Box #2. (7)

Butch, 33, good-looking, WM, 6'2", bottom, 210 lbs., BB, 46°C, 33"W, 17"A, bubble butt, professional, new to Huntington Beach, seeks masculine black top only (30-40), dominant, kinky, professional. Call after 6 p.m. 714-969-1582. Mark (8)

Blonde, blue-eyed GM, 45, 5'10", 175 pounds, good body, big arms, seeks black or Latin male, 20-40, thin or muscular, well-hung, top for safe sex. Call 213-285-3579. Leave message. (9)

Hot WM, 38, blond/blue, tan, moustache, wants to meet attractive BM, 20-40, intelligent, sense of humor important. Ph/ph to: Box 8107, Glendale, CA 91224. (9)

Are you a dark GBM, under 29, who enjoys dancing, bodybuilding and is self-sufficient? If yes, and you like what follows, contact me at BLK Box #3. I am 6'1", 151 lbs., 22 years old, fair and in the process of muscular development. Seeking workout partner with interest in a 1-on-1 relationship. (9)

Stocky, white male, 49 (interests: music, travel, intimate moments) seeks black top buddy, 49-65, sensual, intelligent, caring. 415-527-4460 or write Bill, Box 9369, Berkeley, CA 94709. (9)

Uncut, good-looking, African-born white European, muscular, clean-shaven, blue eyes, 29, 5'11", 175 seeks intelligent, masculine, tall, very muscular, hunky black bodybuilder for

## Exodus Travel Service

213-285-8619

solicits your

# Vote for: Bernard

Emperor XVII

South Bay Imperial Court

Voting Open to Everyone

Picture I.D. Required

Sat., July 1, 1989 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Cockatoo Inn

4334 West Imperial Highway, Hawthorne

## Unity Fellowship Church

A Church For All People

□ Sunday Worship Service  
11:30 a.m.

□ All Persons HIV+, A.I.D.S. &  
ARC Are Welcome

□ A Non-Judgmental Ministry

## God Is Love & Love Is For Everyone

## Rev. Carl Bean, P a s t o r

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles,  
California 90016 □ (213) 936-4948



friendship. Box 69A27, LA 90069 (8)

Straight black Puerto Rican stud, 42, hung 12x7 needs service from hung 10+. Only reply with photo and phone. Need 100% discretion. Leon Jackson, 8829 National Blvd., #75, Culver City, CA 90232. (7)

Hot, handsome, in-shape GWM, 47, 5'10", 160 lbs., seeks handsome GBM for friendship and much more. Call James. 714-336-1305 (7)

Handsome, articulate BM, 38, 6'2", 175 lbs., swimmer's build, Fr A/P, fro-tage, desires discreet liason with attractive, mature BM, 40-55, fit, 6'5", or taller. Your photo gets mine. BLK Box #1. (7)

In-shape older black gentleman with 8" wants to watch 2 young black bucks play in the dark. No participation necessary. Will pay expenses. Discretion essential. Warren, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233. (8)

Free massage for fit, smooth BM with big buns by WM, 36, professional, 6'0", 173 lbs. Mike 213-483-1517. (8)

Michael Rucker: Miss ya. Writel Box 18A255, L.A., CA 90018 (9)

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hollywood, CA 91607. (8)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, California 90004. (11)

Looking for dark, hairy, tall, attractive, nice build, black or Latin-type, between 30-50 years. You must be professional, spiritual, sincere and romantic, and sexually be G/A or F/A/P (safe sex). Nipple play is nice. I am tall, slim, 6'2", 170, 36 years, blond, tan, green-eyed, health-oriented, nice build, G/P. Exchange of photos a must. Larce, 2407 Wilshire Blvd., Box 285, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (7)

GWM, mid-years bodybuilder stud (body of 25 weightlifter ...better!) "great" pecs, wild in the sack (make you groan and burn!), masculine rugged-looking, hot, seeks GBM, bodybuilder or surf body (no plumps!). Photo/phone. Danny, Box 11658 Chandler Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601. I dig massaging (using oil) (7)

Good-looking black athlete, 31, top, masculine, muscular, moustache, seeks younger, masculine, muscular, randy white boys who are bottom, streetwise and live for safe, clean fun. Serious replies only. 619-291-7834. (8)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond, beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. (7)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disap-

pointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

Good-looking, masculine GBM, 6'4", 37, 225 lbs., bearded professional, stalking articulate cuddle-bear, beefy and bearded (well, a moustache'll do) who will savor and succor, challenge and cherish, explore frontiers and fro-tage. Nothing easy sought or offered here, though a bed buddy would appeal: I'm uncertain if I'm focused or generous enough to be anyone's lover. Domestic, I'm not. Being intense, analytical and verbal, similar types attract; others beware. But I do love to laugh. If I sound like the stray pet you've been looking for, write Alex, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-237, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (7)

Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Hollywood, CA 90078. (7)

Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138. (7)

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (8)

I am a 26 year old slightly heavyset black man with a handsome face who is totally straight, but craves a rough and tough black stud to break me in the gay life. I am financially secure, have a nice house and car and also a nice girlfriend, but I'm missing out on something. I would only go with a "black man" who acts black. No "oreos." I also will only go with an attractive man. No fat out-of-shapes or drug users. I am very passionate. I have yet to find a man who can control my high sexual needs. I only want black men who are 10" or more. No sissies or girl-acting men. If you are 25-35 years old and are over 5'9" tall and fit the bill, write me. John, Box 8340, Inglewood, CA 90308. (6)

Butch GWM, 51, seeks GR/A black SFV buddy. 818-766-6033. (6)

Affectionate W/M, 38, 5'3", 128#, blond/green, seeking G/B/W man in his mid-30s who has capacity for love and commitment, educated, self-sufficient, healthy, attractive and willing to share all with his equal. Photo and phone to Box 33834, San Diego, CA 92103. (6)

## How to Get into the BLK Market Free

- **Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.
- **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.
- **All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.
- **Box number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK box for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.
- **Replying to a BLK box.** Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Box #\_\_\_\_\_  
BLK Classifieds  
Box 83912  
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

- **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

Please complete and sign the following. This information will not appear in your ad.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for July issue: June 19, 1989.

### Figure cost of ad:

\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ words at 5¢ (employment only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Cost to run ad one month \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_  
Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone verification at \$1 (outside CA \$3) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
BLK Box at \$5 per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed (do not send cash) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Return to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083



# MIDTOWNE SPA



**“Serving the  
Gay Black Community  
For Over 20 Years”**

**24 hours a day there's  
someone here for you!**

A safe place to come . . .

A clean place to come . . .

A fun place to come . . .

A healthy place to come . . .

**COME BY SOON . . . YOU ALL**

$\frac{1}{2}$  price on Tuesday • Full service  
every day of the year

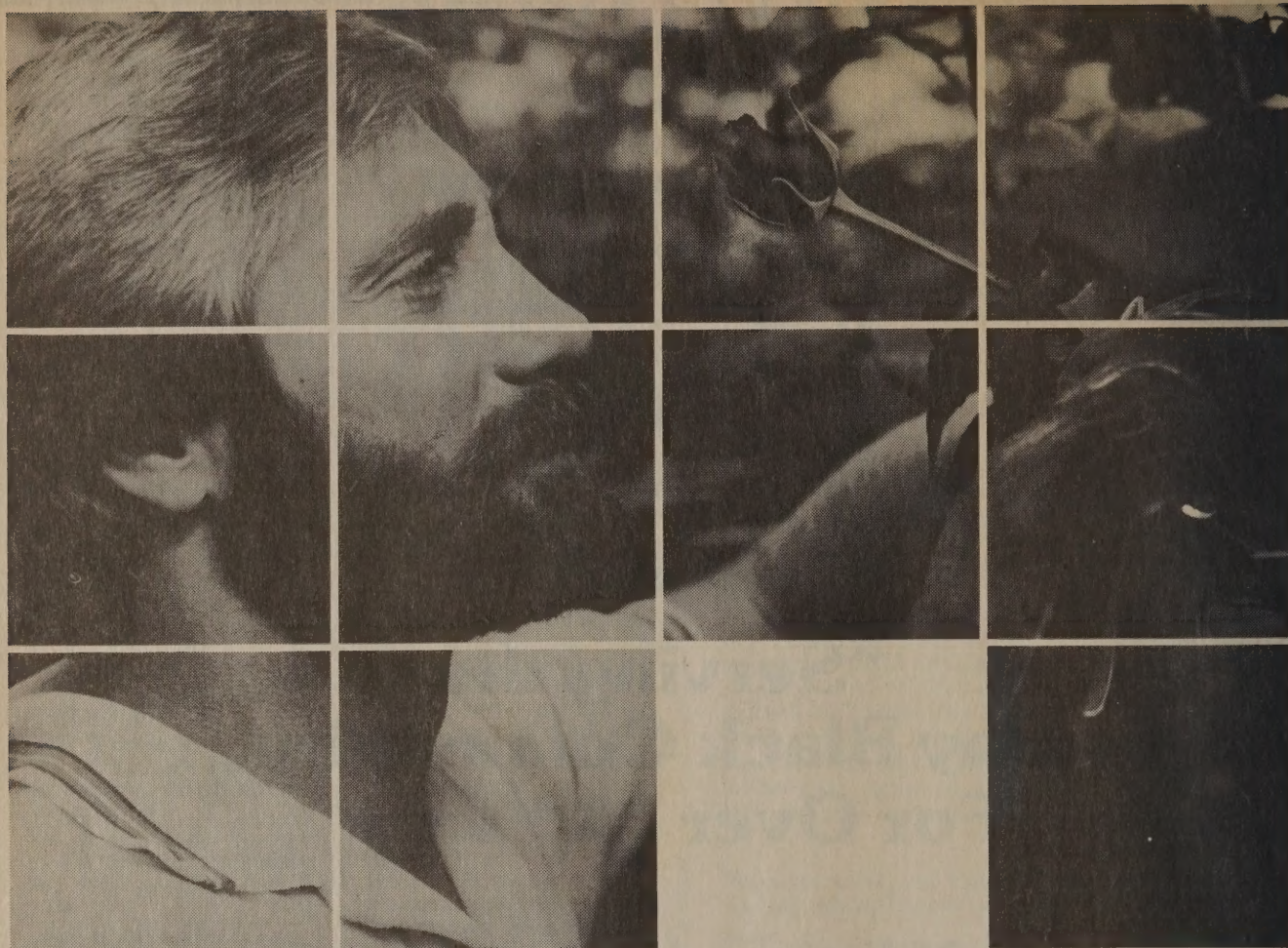
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**Phone (213) 680-1838**

# **WE NEVER CLOSE**





## We treat people not parts.

Keith Medical Group, HIV specialists within a family practice environment, is composed of highly qualified medical practitioners, seasoned technicians and supportive staff. *All committed to treating the whole person, not a series of parts.* Our expertise has proved that effective HIV/AIDS treatment requires the interaction of many disciplines: Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Disease, Pulmonary Medicine, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Neuropsychology, Nutritional Therapy, Social Work and complete laboratory facilities.

And we have this most comprehensive multispecialty team. All together. With a single dedication. You.

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Co-Medical Directors, Immune Suppressed Units.

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Same day appointments.

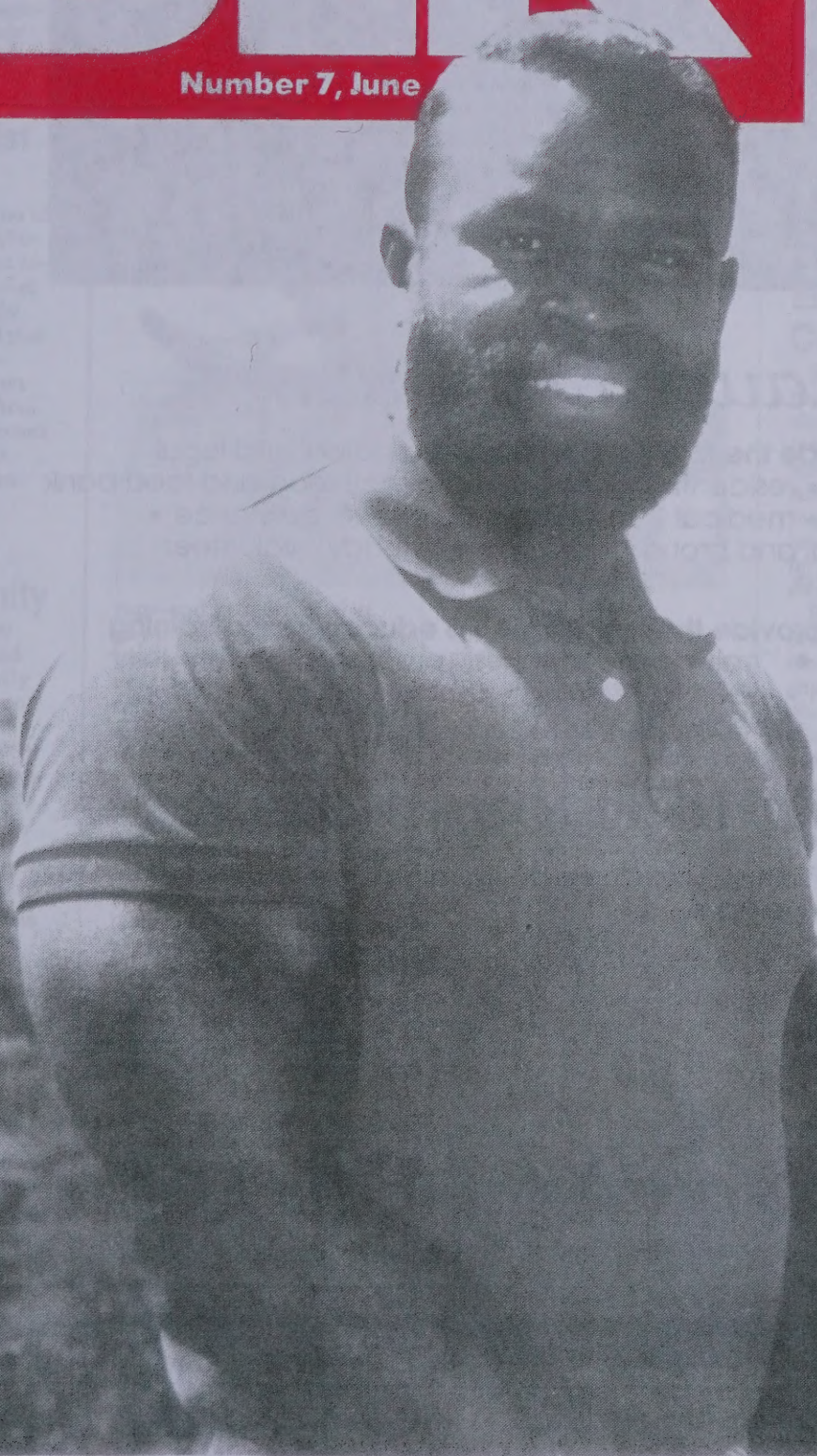
(213) 931-1463

(818) 769-6081



# BLK

Number 7, June







## *Because we care...*

**We provide the following services:** • medical and legal referrals • residential shelter • emergency food and food bank referrals • medical transportation • benefit assistance • individual and group counseling • "buddy" volunteer assistance.

**And we provide the following AIDS education and training services:** • "training the teacher" programs • community outreach • in-service training • business and professional seminars • speaker's bureau.

## *Want to know more...*

**Call 213-936-4949** anytime day or night. We're here to help.  
Because we care.

# *Minority AIDS Project*

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# WORD UP

## A Picture Worth a Thousand Words

The pitch for Johnny Walker Scotch which appears on this page ran in the March 20, 1989 issue of *New York* magazine. And you probably thought it ran in *The Advocate*.

## D.C. Hair Stylist Lays Low

Robyn-Denise Yourse of Washington, D.C.'s *Afro-American* reports that celebrated area hairstylist Bubbles has seemingly taken on a low-keyed posture following his appearance last month on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. He discussed his homosexuality on the program, which is syndicated nationally.

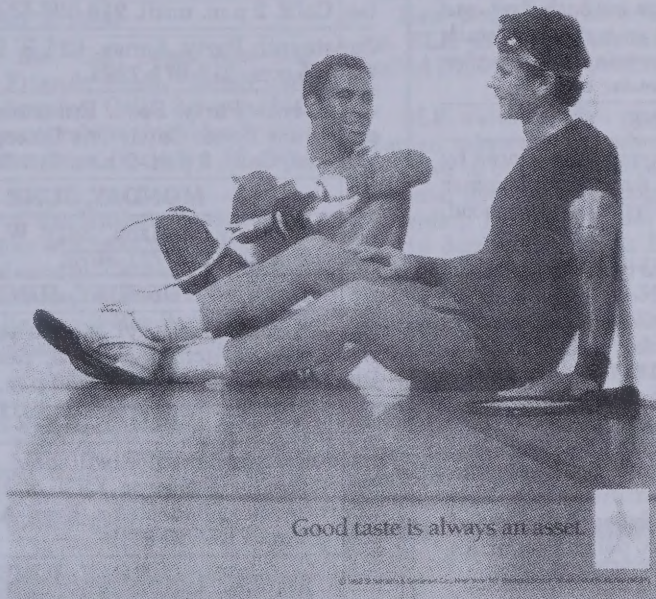
## Wayans: Boot Camp Masculinity

Laurie Stone in New York's *Village Voice* had an earful to say recently about one up-and-coming black comedian:

"Twenty-seven years ago, Damon Wayans was born into a poor Harlem family as one of 10 kids. He also arrived with a club foot, and he had to wear a thick-soled boxy shoe. These days Wayans is tall, sleek and good-looking, but his splenetic comedy still springs from the perspective of the shoe.

"Wayans sees the way black men, made impotent in society, feel feminized and infantilized and react by striving to prove their masculinity with violent acts and hardened hearts. The trouble with Wayans is that he isn't always in control of this knowledge. Sometimes, the pain of being black and once disabled whelms up as pure

"He works as hard as he plays.  
And he drinks Johnnie Walker"



rage-and gets directed at gay men. Gays obsess him, and his depictions are ignorant and undifferentiated. All are flaming queens who hold limp wrists to their chest, screech in high voices, and run from danger with spaghetti legs. These figures seem to embody his secret fear about himself-and some even reveal self-loathing. Wayans hates his flesh; nothing horrifies him more than the thought of a man incorporating his cock. And, reporting the flack he's taken, huffs, 'If you can take a dick, you can take a joke.' At another point, ripping off Michael Jackson's surgery, he quips, 'If I had \$100 million, I'd have the crack in my ass removed.'

"By becoming the kind of bully he first dissects, Wayans tries to rescind the vulnerability he's shown, but that's only one

motivation. Playing queens-with his limbs flailing out of control and his face suffused with joy-he recovers the freedom he had wearing the shoe. While his mouth insists he's a real man, his body says he's dying for a



vacation from boot-camp masculinity."

## Slick Rick's 'Lick'

The *Village Voice* also served up this tasty bit by pop music critic Cathy Campbell writing about *The Adventures of Slick Rick*, the 24-year-old namesake's debut album:

"In Slick's dogma, only a man can give him a sense of potency (and impregnability) to truly bust out. *Lick the Balls* [an album cut] is far more homoerotic than Rick might intend—his rap goes beyond testifying to the oracles-of-def-fly and boasting about mouth-to-balls coordination of other rappers."

## Elders Say No to Condom Ads

The *Afro-American* also reports that several D.C. clergypersons and councilmembers have rejected a move to display explicit AIDS prevention posters in public places because of language and pictures referring to using condoms as a preventive measure.

Rev. Albert Gallmon, Jr. of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church said he felt the church was not the best place for messages which speak blatantly of condom use and pre- or extra-marital sexual engagements.

**IF HE  
DOESN'T  
CARE  
ENOUGH  
TO WEAR A  
CONDOM  
HE DOESN'T  
CARE.**

**USE A CONDOM.  
DON'T MESS AROUND WITH AIDS.**

FOR INFORMATION: 333-AIDS (V/TBW)  
D.C. Department of Human Services  
Commission of Public Health



# BLK BOARD

To have your event put on the Blk Board, contact Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the July issue is June 19, 1989. The Blk Board is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are Blk Listed.

Blk Board also acts as a Master Calendar for the black gay community so that scheduling conflicts between events can be minimized. Blk keeps information on both firm and tentative events. Contact us either to let us know the details of your organization's event, or to determine if any other events are already scheduled for a particular day.

## FRIDAY, MAY 26, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Plummer Park, Long Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, Calif. 7 p.m.

The Oxford Club is hosting a benefit party for Gay Men of African Descent. 148 Eleventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 11 p.m. \$6 GMAD members; \$8 non-members advance tickets; \$10 everyone at-door. For more information, call Byron at 718-434-5556, Colin at 718-979-1474, Derek at 718-693-4990 or Michael at 718-287-8392.

## SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989

Annual Memorial Day Picnic sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles in Griffith Park. Free hot dogs, buns and condiments. You bring soft drinks, lemonade or fruit drinks. Alcohol is not permitted in the park. 3 p.m. Call for exact location. 213-664-4716.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1989

Birthday Party for Horizon owner Louis Oflee. 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m. 213-737-9678.

## MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1989

Second Anniversary of the LaVerne Show. DJ is Sydney Perri. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m. For more information, call Bruce Johnson 213-737-9678.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1989

West Coast Premiere of "Wonderland" benefiting the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. The movie stars, among others, Emile Charles as Eddie, a gay mulatto teenager. Reception follows screening. Writers Guild Theatre, 135 S. Doheny, Beverly Hills, Calif. 7:30 p.m. \$20. 213-464-7400, ext. 253.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1989

Gladys Knight headlines "24 Hours for Life," an evening of events at five different New York night spots (11 East, Tracks, Red Zone, The Choice, Tunnel) and a comedy club (Michael's Pub), presented in association with the Warwick Foundation's Second Annual Benefit Gala Weekend. 212-633-1612.

AIDS Education Forum sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

## MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1989

Party for Bruce W. Johnson celebrating his promotion to the Horizon's Entertainment Coordinator. 3416 W. Wash-

ington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m.

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m.

Poet Cheryl Clarke and sci-fi writer Samuel R. Delany will be among the authors reading from their works at "The Benefit of Words: New York," a part of New York's Gay Pride Celebration. Astor Place Theatre, 434 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 8 p.m. \$15.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1989

Juneteenth Party. Cottage, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2 p.m. until. 213-935-5540.

Juneteenth Party. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 5 p.m. 213-671-7323.

Juneteenth Party. Food. Entertainment by Vision A Jazz and Blues Band. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-737-1159.

## MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1989

Batman Party. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-737-9678.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy!" a safer sex playshop sponsored by BWMT/LA. Catch One Disco, Roots Room, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1989

Exodus Travel Service will hold a party for Bernard, a candidate for Emperor XVII of the South Bay Imperial Court. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-285-8619.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1989

Rev. Carl Bean will be honored as Christopher Street West/Los Angeles's Man of the Year in ceremonies at West Hollywood Park, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, W. Hollywood, Calif. 3 p.m.

The 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," will be held at West Hollywood Park, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, W. Hollywood, Calif. Sat., June 24, Noon-Midnight. Sun., June 25, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventists Kinship International is sponsoring its First Annual Kinship Kampmeeting Karavan beginning in San Diego with its final destination the Tenth Annual Kinship Kampmeeting in the Portland, Oregon area. The Karavan will stop in Los Angeles for a kickoff rally and vegetarian potluck picnic June 24, 1989. For more information call 213-876-2076 or write Box 3840-K, Los Angeles, CA 90078-3840.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1989

Maxine Waters will appear as Grand Marshall of the 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," sponsored by Christopher Street West/Los Angeles. Parking available at the Pacific Design Center. 12:30 p.m.

Ronald S. Johnson, director of the Minority AIDS Task Force, and Barbara Smith, founder of Kitchen Table Press, will be among the speakers at "Celebration 20! The Rally." The rally will include speeches, music and entertainment. Central Park, Great Lawn, New York, N.Y. 2-6 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1989

"Monarch Show" featuring the current Emperor and Em-



press of the Imperial Court of South Bay. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$5. 213-671-7323.

The Second Conference of Anti-Homophobia Education, "Ending Heterosexuality and Homophobia: Strategies, Networking and Support," will explore, among other things, "the relationships between racism, sexism and homophobia." Separate support groups for women of color and men of color will meet during the conference. UCLA Conference Center, 310 DeNeve Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. June 30-July 3, 1989. Fees vary depending on registration date. For more information contact Jeff Beane at 213-273-6375 (California) or Mary Jo Osterman at 312-864-2840 (Illinois), or write Box 819, Cambridge, MA 02139.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1989

45th Birthday Celebration for Rev. Carl Bean. Also the kickoff for "Coming Home for Friends Week." Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-6 p.m. \$10 single tickets, \$45 individual sponsorships (includes 2 tickets), \$450 organizational sponsorships (includes 10 tickets).

The Ninth Annual Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together will take place July 2-8, 1989 at the Florida State University Center for Professional Development in Tallahassee, Florida. For more information contact BWMT Tallahassee/Big Bend Florida, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3321. 904-681-9499.

#### SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1989

Dionne Warwick will headline "Coming Home for Friends II," a redux of last year's gospel concert and benefit for Minority AIDS Project. Shrine Auditorium, 649 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-936-4949.

## BLK MAIL

### Anti-Woman Cartoons

Dear Editor:

I found the captions to the cartoons on pages 19 and 25 of February issue to be anti-woman.

I appreciate your articles that contribute to the integrity of black women, lesbians, and gays, such as the Germain Maisonet interview and the report on Nia retreat.

I support a feminist bias in recreating our world, including our publications.

Ananda Lowe  
Los Angeles, California

### Insight and Analysis

Dear Editor:

L. Lloyd Jordan's "Policing the Task Force" [BLK, May 1989] was one of the best pieces of insight and analysis I've read in the gay press in a long time.

Steve Taravella  
Santa Monica, California

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

## News of the BLK Family

In a recent editorial, *Frontiers* publisher Bob Craig called BLK "a nicely designed monthly magazine" that "non-blacks will enjoy." He called it "a welcome addition to the journalistic family ...[that] deserves both your readership and your advertising support."

Meanwhile, in an article called "Minority Gays Find Strength in Unity," the *Los Angeles Times* dismissed BLK as "a mix of news, pictures of nude men in raunchy party-line advertisements and risque profiles of porn stars." The article also misquoted BLK publisher Alan Bell as having made a tasty mixture of sexist and self-serving remarks.

New York's Gay Men of African Descent did a write-up on BLK in their *Calendar* while *Update* in San Diego called BLK "an outstanding new gay/lesbian publication."

BLK welcomes five people to the staff this month. Asif Zaman takes over in advertising allowing Gene Cornelius to move to public relations. Baltimore photographer David Weems, noted for delicious pictures of black men, will be providing BLK with East Coast images. Lars Eighner, L. Lloyd Jordan and Blair Nix join as contributors. On the promotion front, Mark Haile moves from contributor to staff writer.

And speaking of the East Coast, BLK can use as many correspondents (words and/or pictures) from cities across the country as it can get. If you'd like to be our eyes and ears in your hometown, drop us a line, a fax or a phone call. BLK also has several local staff positions open. Experienced journalists who can donate a few hours to a rookie publication are urged to give a call. We'll do lunch.—A.B.

## BLK

Number 7, June 1989

Editor and Publisher Alan Bell

Staff Writers Revon Kyle Banneker, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Chi Hughes, Jarvis D. Moore

Contributors Clarence Burns III, L. Paul Davis, Lars Eighner, Frank Hall, L. Lloyd Jordan, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen, Blair Nix

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Cover: Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. Photo by Alan Bell.  
Cartoons courtesy Ebony. New captions by BLK.



# Harrassment vs. Protection

*Police actions at Hollywood bar stir feelings of ambivalence*

By Lars Eighner

**L**aw-abiding black and gay people have good reason to have mixed feelings about the police.

We want protection, not only from the crimes that could happen to anybody, but also from the hate crimes perpetrated by racists and homophobes. On the other hand we have experienced, or know someone who has experienced, police harassment, police entrapment, or even police violence because racism and homophobia exist in police departments.

When police visit one gay bar with a large black following three times in less than three weeks, ambivalence about the police tilts toward suspicion.

Uniformed officers of LAPD entered the Study in Hollywood shortly before closing Sunday morning April 15. They ordered the music turned down and the lights turned up.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Customers were told to stand with their hands flat on the bar. That was the third time since March 29.

On a previous visit police checked IDs and arrested seven customers for outstanding traffic warrants. Another time police searched customers for weapons.

Three times seemed like a pattern to customer Jay Bradshaw. He asked officers why they had entered the bar. Police said they were looking for someone.

Bradshaw believes the police visits were related to an incident that occurred late in 1988. The Lodge, another bar owned by Study proprietor Stu Zinn, was shut down briefly in December for alleged occupancy violations. Bradshaw believes that a subsequent meeting between owner Zinn, five city councilmembers and representatives of the LAPD embarrassed LAPD. Bradshaw suspects that events at the Study are LAPD's retaliation.

But I visited the study and other customers had other theories.

"It's a bad corner, man," a black customer told me.

"No question about it. They are dealing drugs out there." "Out there" is the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Western Avenue. It is a bad corner. They are dealing drugs out there. The #1 bus from downtown stops on Hollywood Blvd. and around the corner on Western the #207 bound for Western and Imperial Highway boards passengers. At night, especially on a weekend night, large numbers of people, mostly black, stand, sit and lean on things along Western.

Many of them are waiting for the bus, but when the #207 bus departs, many also remain. Some who remain are just hanging out, some are drinking, some are panhandling, some are waiting at the window of TY&T Burgers at the corner, few seem to be hooking or hustling but, yes indeed, some are dealing drugs.

Local residents think Hollywood and Western is the worst corner in Hollywood. They recall an apparently random stab-

bing at the bus stop—the victim had been sleeping on the bench. They refer vaguely to a number of shootings and muggings.

When I observed the area a beer bottle flew out of a passing car, bounced off a wall, and shattered a couple of feet away. It could have happened anywhere. But the perception is that it is the sort of thing more likely to happen at Hollywood and Western.

**T**he Study is on Western, several hundred feet north of Hollywood Blvd., set back on a partially fenced lot. Like many gay bars, the Study does not look like much from the outside.

Inside, the Study seems very far away from the corner of Hollywood and Western. Although it is a small bar, it is as nicely furnished as any gay bar in Hollywood. The walls are adorned with smartly framed art prints and prominently displayed safe sex posters. The felt on the pool table is like new. There are about a half-dozen small tables, a modest but adequate bar, and a cozy conversation area wrapped around a free-standing fireplace. The red leather-like upholstery is well-maintained—after an hour I had found only one rip. The floor needed sweeping, but it was after 11 on a Friday night and the bar was busy.

The big difference between the Study and the street was the people. The crowd was attractive, masculine, about two-thirds black, mostly mid-20s to early 30s, and well-dressed in a casual vein. The obvious hustlers and tacky drags

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*"There's a real problem on the street. The police ought to deal with it on the street. But since they won't, let 'em come in here. They'll see we have nothing to hide."*

---

common in some other Hollywood bars were not evident at the Study.

A large sign over the bar reads: "No loitering. 3 drink Minimum. No Exceptions." I could not drink three cocktails the way they are poured at the Study, but a customer explained the sign was meant to discourage people from the street who might otherwise duck in and out of the bar.

Customers I talked to were ambivalent about the police visits, but the black patrons were, if anything, less suspicious of the police.



"There's a real problem on the street," one black customer told me. "They [the police] ought to deal with it on the street. But since they won't, let 'em come in here. They'll see we have nothing to hide. And folks out there [on the street] might start thinking it's a bad idea to come in here."

Nearly everyone I spoke to expressed doubts that the police visits to the Study were related to the occupancy citation of the Lodge. They pointed out that the Lodge had experienced no further problems and neither had My House, another Hollywood bar owned by Zinn.

A white customer thought the police simply saw black people going into the Study. "We can tell who belongs here and who doesn't," the customer said. "The police could tell the difference too if they could get past skin color."

**B**ut without talking to the individuals, how could police make that distinction if not on the basis of something as superficial as clothing.

I observed a young man hop off the curb and exchange something with a passenger who was in a car southbound on Western Ave. The man was somewhat younger than most of the Study's customers. He was dressed in a white T-shirt, high school jacket, jeans, and sneakers—all apparently clean. Since the Study's clientele are mostly masculine, the young man differed from them in no obvious mannerism.

The difference was clothing. Could, would, should the police notice that in a mixed gay bar blacks dress up and whites dress down? Should police stick their heads in gay bar; see the turtlenecks, slacks, polished shoes, and sports

jackets; and shrug off a promising lead if they had one?

On the other hand, if I could see the delivery being made, why could plainclothes police not see that same thing and deal with the problem on the street.

There still is no answer to why the police visited the Study three times in less than three weeks. Customer Bradshaw says he complained verbally to Nina Greenberg in Councilmember Mike Woo's Silverlake office and Sgt. Dravidzius of LAPD's Hollywood office on Wilcox.

Greenberg told me that since uniformed officers were involved she supposed the incidents were not vice operations. She referred inquiries to Brian Galbraith of the community relations office of LAPD in Hollywood.

Galbraith told me that the matter was being treated as an inquiry and was being handled by Sgt. Dravidzius's inquiry was not complete as BLK went to press. If there was a legitimate law enforcement objective of the incidents it hardly matters now what it was.

A pleasant place like the Study could not exist long in the environment of Hollywood and Western without a police presence in the area. People at the Study know that.

But they also know LAPD has a history of racism and homophobia and for whatever reason LAPD is not dealing with the problems of the street on the street.

Since a uniformed police operation is no secret to begin with, why are officers not more forthcoming about what they are looking for and why at the time of these incidents? Police might be surprised by the willingness of people to cooperate with legitimate law enforcement objectives.

Arrogance on the part of the police can only perpetuate our ambivalence.

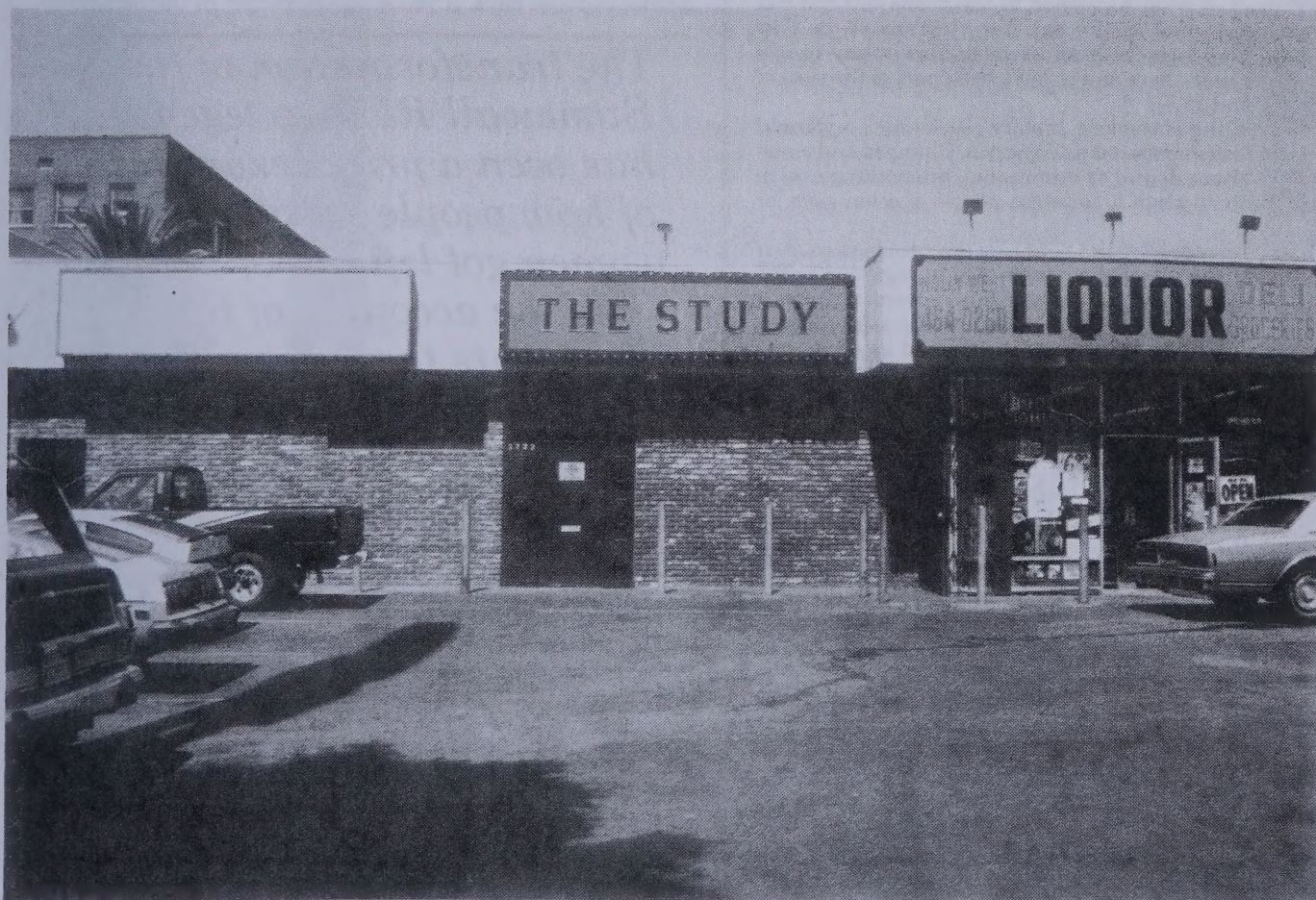


Photo by Alan Bell



# The Truth about Stonewall

*Lesbians, gay men of color, drag queens  
and young people start modern gay movement*

By Mark Haile

**J**une 27, 1969, The Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street, in Greenwich Village, New York.

It was described as "the hairpin drop heard around the world," in reference to a 1960s expression for revealing you were gay before "coming out of the closet" was fashionable. Until Stonewall, Gay people were either "out" only to each other, or they were yanked out of the closet by scandal, destined for shame, humiliation, and ruin.

But Stonewall changed all of that. Twenty years ago this month, something happened in New York's West Village at what had been a shabby little bar off Sheridan Square that would influence nearly every lesbian and gay man living in America today.

The impact of what happened at the Stonewall Inn has been overrated, some critics say. Yet veterans of the Gay Pride movement note with amusement how many people claim to have been there and to have been part of the riots of June 27, 28 and 29.

In the retelling of the tale, history has become myth and desperation is remembered as romance. Changes and omissions, whether accidental or intentional, are nothing new in American history when it concerns people of color, gays, or women.

And the Stonewall legend does concern people of color. If that sultry weekend's street theater is to be regarded as the launching pad of the modern gay rights movement, then it is essential for us to know the key players who started it all: drag queens, hustlers, jailbait juveniles, and gay men and lesbians of color. The outcasts of gay life thus showed homosexual America how to make a fist, fight back, and win self-respect.

**T**he Stonewall was certainly not the first bar of its kind to cater to the "fringe element" of the gay community. Interracial bars and bars geared toward blacks and Latinos in New York City had been around for well over 50 years.

In the decade prior to the depression, Harlem enjoyed the title of Negro capital of the United States—home to the nation's most talented black artists, writers and musicians. Clubs like the Hot Cha and Lulu Belle's rivaled the best bars of today's gay scene. The Savoy Ballroom, originally at Lenox and 140th Street was the hot spot in the 1920s for the black gay drag balls that had been in existence since the 1890s, making them the longest continuously operating gay event in American History.

By that muggy summer of 1969, however, Harlem was scarcely the mecca for America's black cultural elite.

It was hot and humid day and night that Friday, June 27, as it had been and would be for weeks on end.

Gay bars had a short life span in the 60s. Election year

would precipitate raids on a regular basis. Developers used heavy handed methods to get hold of desirable property. The mob looked on popular gay bars as targets for takeover. Rarely was there any resistance to any of these threats—especially when bar owners also had to pay out to the cop on the beat just to stay in existence.

Bars with a black lesbian and gay following opened and closed on a regular basis all across New York City. In the Village, they were usually racially mixed gay bars like the Grapevine or Gianni's, while the clubs up in Harlem were usually all black, but tended to blend straight and gay clientele, like Snooky's, the Purple Manor, or the Dug-out, to name a few.

Jack, a dapper, white-haired gentleman, fondly remembers bars where, "everyone wore a tie. You had to be so careful in those days. If you were a stranger in the bar, no

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*The transformation of the  
Stonewall Riots to legend  
has been a prime example  
of how people of color and  
women got left out of many  
of the accounts of the  
incidents that took place  
that weekend.*

---

one would speak to you until they checked you out. Then once they knew you were okay, they were the friendliest people you could ever meet."

Larry Boxx, who ran the Stonewall Inn at the time of the riots, worked in or owned more than a dozen bars in his days in the club business in New York. He remembers the era before the riots at the Stonewall vividly.

"I was arrested 109 times, with only three convictions. It was a game. Police would check up on business licenses constantly. "There was a Lt. Pine who really had it in for the gay clubs," he recalls. Lt. Pine was a deputy inspector from the Public Morals section of the first division of the New York Police Department. A typical violation would be for something like no soap in the men's room, or an unlicensed coat check room.

"I once had eight raids in one night. I had a charge account with bail bondsman," he recalls. Standard procedure was to take in the manager on duty or a staff member down to the precinct, who would usually be processed and back to work in a few minutes. "You took a token bust," Boxx recalls.



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A black Los Angeles psychologist remembers an experience in a gay club before the Stonewall Riots. "You couldn't even touch another man in those days! A drag queen tried to give me a kiss once, and the undercover cop went 'Whoosh!' and snatched her up and hauled her off to jail. I didn't have any I.D. on me. I was under age, and when the police weren't looking, the other queens hissed at me, 'Run, run like your life depends on it.' And I did, too. We couldn't dance together, you know. There was a big light on top of the

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## *Bars with a black lesbian and gay following opened and closed on a regular basis all across New York.*

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jukebox. When the police would come through the door, this bright light would come on, and everybody would grab the nearest girl to dance with, that's just the way it was."

At one point in 1969, there was only one dance bar for gays in Manhattan. "Six months in the bar business was a long time," Boxx recounts.

**T**he Stonewall Inn scarcely reflected the refinement of the gay bars that had been evident during the Harlem Renaissance. As dance bars today go, it was fairly simple.

In the 1950s, according to Boxx, the Stonewall Inn had been an elegant dinner house, with an enormous flagstone fire place. A long bar dominated the far right wall of the two adjoining store fronts that made up the interior.

The Stonewall Inn had gone through a succession of owners through the late 50s and 60s as the area around Sheridan Square fell upon hard times.

The bar eventually garnered a gay clientele, but not of the sportcoat and tie set. Even as the riots were getting under way that humid weekend in defense of the Stonewall, there was another effort underway elsewhere to start a boycott against it and other bars like it. Shabby gay bars like the Stonewall were perceived by some as more of a threat to the health and self-image of lesbians and gays than the safe haven from persecution they offered.

Long time Christopher Street bookstore owner Craig Rodwell says that between the police and the Mafia, no one could open a gay bar in 1968 with "a healthy social atmosphere." The Stonewall was suspected of being responsible for a local outbreak of hepatitis because bar backs didn't bother washing the glasses.

**T**he crowd that weekend was anything but politically charged. But it was hot. Over 20,000 people had waited up to four hours each in searing heat to view the body of Judy Garland at the Frank & Campbell Funeral Home at 81st and Madison Ave. Thousands of blacks came to pay their respects, too—young and old, men and women. Many people took Friday off to go see her. Thousands thronged the street afterwards, with time on their hands and nothing to do.

When Lt. Pine and the seven other policemen from the Public Morals Section set out that night for the Stonewall, it was to have been a routine raid like the several others that had preceded it in the weeks before.

As Boxx recalls, the only thing actually amiss at the Stonewall Inn was a \$20 tax stamp that the bar was supposed to have on record. The search warrant brought by Pine

was for investigation of reports that liquor was being sold illegally, that the club was operating without a license.

Sometime after Friday night became early Saturday morning, the police began their raid of the bar they referred to as "well known for its homosexual clientele." Upon serving the warrant, detectives began taking inventory of the liquor they were about to confiscate. Patrons were usually allowed to leave after their I.D. was checked, except those "suspected of cross-dressing," who were to be taken to the precinct for questioning and eventually released.

Those permitted out of the bar by the police milled about outside, standing by Sheridan Square, waiting for friends still inside the bar.

There had been about 200 people inside the bar, but now the crowd had doubled in size as passers-by watched the show, and those exiting the bar shouted and shrieked to their friends, posing grandly.

Some bar patrons were apprehensive because of events surrounding raids days earlier. Among those who had been arrested was a young South American student, fearful of being deported if it were discovered he was gay. Despondent, he leapt from the third story window while in custody at the Charles Street Police Station, impaling himself on the spikes atop the facility's surrounding wrought iron fence. Although he survived the fall, he was maimed for life, and sensational photographs of the incident made the front pages of the New York tabloids. For the homosexual community, it inflamed an already long, hot summer. It was prominent in the conversations of those waiting for their friends still inside the bar.

The mood shifted quickly when three drag queens were taken from the bar and placed in the police paddy wagon. The crowd began shouting at the policemen, but the real confrontation was yet to take place.

The next person taken out of the bar was a lesbian, who struggled with the police every step of the way. This seemed to be the visual cue that motivated the crowd, for no one person led the charge. No one directed the energy of the throng.

What happened next was described as "a rampage" by the *New York Times*. The crowd started throwing everything and anything they could get their hands on at the startled police.

Larry Boxx, remembers that there was a loose parking meter that was uprooted easily as the policemen barricaded themselves inside the bar amid a shower of pennies, bricks and bottles.

Tactical patrol force units, a new anti-riot squad designed

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## *The only thing actually amiss at the Stonewall Inn was a \$20 tax stamp that the bar was supposed to have on record.*

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specifically for use in Harlem, were brought in to clear the area.

Eventually, thirteen people were arrested that evening with four policemen reported slightly injured.

**W**hen the Stonewall reopened the following night serving only soft drinks, the tactical patrol force units appeared shortly after 2 a.m. to clear the crowd that had gathered along Christopher Street and in Sheridan Square.



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**Hot, Horny & Healthy!** is sponsored by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black And White Men Together and by the Los Angeles Chapter of Black And White Men Together.

This program is funded nationally by a grant from the United States Centers for Disease Control and locally by a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

For more information call:

**BWMT / Los Angeles: 213/664-4716**



The riot squad, linked arm to arm the width of the street, dispersed the crowd between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Those who didn't escape down the numerous, narrow alleys and side streets in time were clubbed and shoved to the ground. This time, only three people were arrested, but many

more were injured or involved in confrontation as the police broke ranks and charged into the crowd.

On the second night of fighting with the police, gay graffiti appeared all over the street and the shouts included, "Gay Power." Numerous flyers were passed out among the crowd.

## Major Events in Black Gay History Since Stonewall

### 1969

⇒ Raid on Stonewall Inn in N.Y., transformed gay movement to street radicalism as black and Latino drag queens/hustlers fought cops.

### 1970

⇒ Black Panther leader Huey Newton supports gay lib, saying "perhaps a homosexual could be the most revolutionary." But some friction occurs between gays and more macho Panthers at Washington, D.C. revolutionary convention.

### 1971

⇒ Black Assemblyman Willie Brown pledges to work for gay rights law in California.

### 1973

⇒ Congresswoman Barbara Jordan's majestic voice spellbinds America during Watergate.

### 1974

⇒ Sierra Domino, nation's largest studio of black gay erotica established in San Francisco.

⇒ *Loving Her*, by Ann Allen Shockley, published.  
⇒ *Ruby* by Rosa Guy, the first lesbian teen novel.  
⇒ MCC starts a chiefly non-gay congregation in Zaria, Nigeria, as a result

of an attack on MCC in a Jehovah's Witness magazine.

### 1975

⇒ Salsa Soul Sisters founded in N.Y., first lesbian West Indian and black women's group.  
⇒ Willie Brown's repeal of California sodomy statute goes into effect.

### 1978

⇒ Black gays invited to White House for meeting.  
⇒ National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays founded.

### 1979

⇒ First Third World Conference held in Washington, D.C., largest gathering of black gays.  
⇒ First NCBLG Conference.  
⇒ Baldwin's *Just Above My Head* includes black gay lovers, affirmatively portrayed.

### 1980

⇒ Cuban Refugee Project sponsored by MCC settles black Cubans in U.S.  
⇒ Mel Boozer is first black nominated for vice president at a Democratic convention.  
⇒ Navy anti-lesbian witchhunting aboard the U.S.S. Norton Sound. Whites freed, blacks convicted.  
⇒ Black and White Men Together chapters started

in many cities.

### 1981

⇒ First black man in U.S. is diagnosed at UCLA with what is later to become known as AIDS.  
⇒ Third World Women's Archives founded in Brooklyn, N.Y.  
⇒ Rev. Renee McCoy founds Harlem MCC.  
⇒ Black Heart Collective publishes first collection of black male literature.  
⇒ Barbara Smith founds Kitchen Table Press.

### 1982

⇒ Alice Walker produces the Pulitzer Prize winning *The Color Purple*.  
⇒ N.Y. police wreck "Blues," a black gay bar.  
⇒ Ex-Dodger Glen Burke comes out.  
⇒ Evangelical scholar Dr. James Tinney of Howard University, founds Faith Temple in Washington, D.C., the largest independent black gay congregation.

### 1983

⇒ *Zami: a New Spelling of My Name* establishes Audre Lorde as major American author.  
⇒ James Baldwin, America's greatest living male author, comes out at BWMT/N.Y. event.  
⇒ BWMT protests gay bar carding across U.S.; BWMT/Atlanta gets city to adopt anti-carding ordinance.

### 1985

⇒ Bayard Rustin breaks silence on his gayness when he addresses NABWMT convention.  
⇒ Minority AIDS Project, first and largest community-based black gay AIDS organization formed in Los Angeles by Rev. Carl Bean.

### 1986

⇒ International Lesbian and Gay People of Color Conference held in Los Angeles.  
⇒ National Minority AIDS Council forms in Washington, D.C.

### 1987

⇒ Rev. Carl Bean gets NAACP Image Award for AIDS work.

### 1988

⇒ Rev. Jesse Jackson, speaking at Catch One Disco in L.A., becomes the first major presidential candidate to address a black gay audience.  
⇒ "Coming Home for Friends," first major fundraiser by black music industry for black PWAs.  
⇒ NABWMT receives first national grant to a gay organization to do AIDS education for black gays.  
⇒ Bevan Dufty elected co-chair of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles, largest local gay PAC in America.



Even though they started out as an unruly mob without direction or leadership, something emerged and electrified those who were present. The lesbians and gay men who filled Sheridan Square became empowered by their own hands.

The Inn remained closed after the riots, covered with slogans such as "Gay Rights Now" and "Legalize Gay Bars."

In 1972, Larry Boxx had to leave New York City because of investigations by the Knapp Commission on Police Corruption in the New York Police Force. Ironically, Boxx served as Grand Marshall of the Long Beach, California Gay Pride Parade held May 21, in commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

**T**here were gay organizations already in existence at the time of Stonewall: the cautious and conservative Mattachine Society, with chapters nationwide, and the more radical Student Homophile League at Columbia University. Still, it took those who had the least to lose, the black and

*The next person taken from the bar was a lesbian, who struggled with the police every step of the way. This seemed to be the visual cue that motivated the crowd.*

Latino drag queens, to forego "acceptable behavior" and reject obedience to authority to become catalysts for the birth of the modern gay pride movement.

Their model was neither the hesitant nor the rash assertion of their self-proclaimed leadership, but the fury, desperation and pride aborning of the militant black power movement. In 1969, many were giving up powerlessness. And they were, or were following African Americans.

Since the Stonewall Riots, many organizations have used the Stonewall name in tribute to the importance of the event. Many individuals active in the lesbian and gay movement remember when they first heard about the Stonewall Riots, and a few even have authentic personal recollections of the events. Yet no group or individual can claim responsibility for the resistance offered that weekend. The credit belongs to a handful of people who have since been forgotten, jettisoned by a movement that more and more reflects conformity as the years pass.

The names of those who fought that first battle for gay rights have largely passed into obscurity, yet their legacy has been embraced by the entire nation's gay community, with a profound effect on the course of the lives of millions. When former President Reagan used the phrase that he "came out of the closet" (as an opera lover) on nationwide television a few years ago, he had no idea of the origin of the expression he was using, so popular has its usage become.

As Jane Rule said, lesbians and gay men have a gift of love to give to the entire world, so, too, did those anonymous black and Latino gay men and lesbians at the Stonewall Inn, give the precious gift of life to an entire movement.

When the movement began the rule was inclusiveness rather than separation, so unlike many of today's lesbian and gay institutions. Hopefully the lesbian and gay community will become ever more aware of its roots, that the spirit of the first warriors of our modern movement will offer guidance and aid in the battles yet to come.

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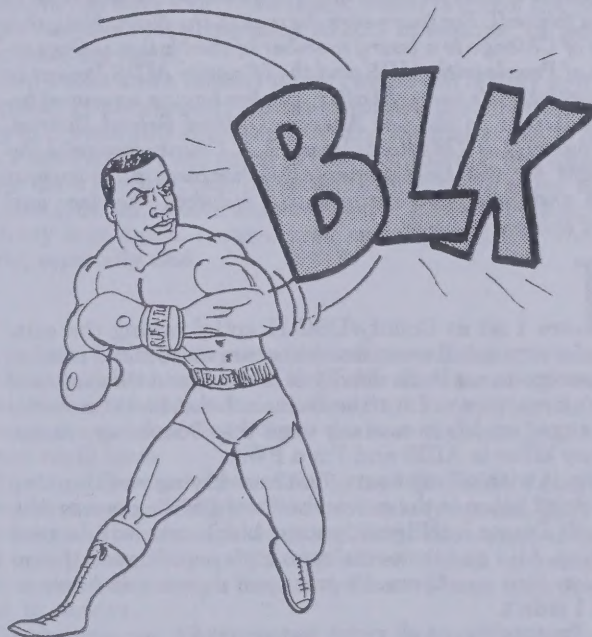
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# It Happened to Me

*Brawny bodybuilder describes how he got AIDS  
and how he denied it*

**By Roger V. Pamplin, Jr.**

*Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. is a big, strong guy. He's 6 foot, weighs 210 pounds and is 28 years old. He looks like he was born to carry a football. For four years, he was in the Navy. Now, this native of Chicago is a board member of the National Organization of People with AIDS and the Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles. He's a sought after speaker having appeared before audiences in the Los Angeles Unified School District, L.A. County/USC Medical Center, L.A. County Regional Department for the Developmentally Disabled, plus various church and civic organizations. His subject? The clear and present danger of AIDS.*

**H**ere I sit at County/USC Hospital hating the existence of a very small creature. An organism so small it takes a microscope to see it. So deadly, it has claimed thousands of people's lives, many of my friends included. A little fiend who has changed my life in so many ways that I can't keep count. This tiny killer is AIDS and I'm a PWA.

I hate it with all my heart. I sit here crying and thinking why didn't I listen to the news when word of the disease first surfaced? I'm an intelligent, young, black man with a good education. All I had to do was open my eyes and read the information that was there. Or just open my ears and listen.

But I didn't.

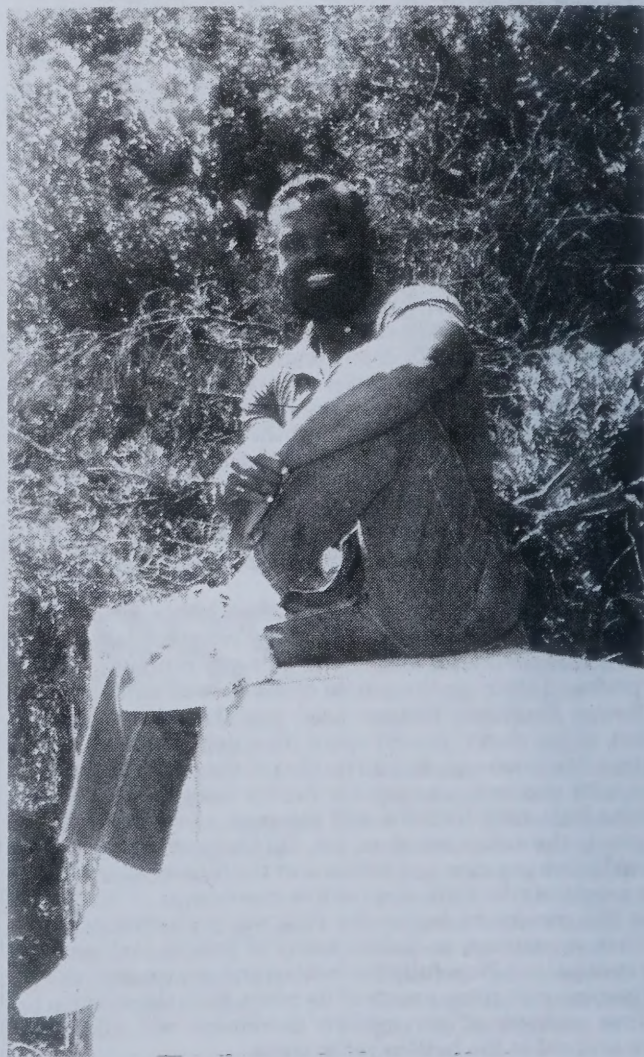
Oh, I'm intelligent all right, too smart for my own damn good. You see, I thought like a whole lot of people think, it'll never happen to me, or that only happens to white limpwristed gays, or (this is the *big* excuse) I'm always a top, never a bottom man. So I continued my ways, having sex with people I didn't know, working the clubs and adult bookstores, having three-way and four-way sex, smoking dope and drinking until I was so high that all I cared about was who I could have that night. And I figured, why use condoms? I'm safe (I'm a top, remember?). Besides condoms are a pain and I like the feel of flesh against flesh.

I wished I had listened and believed. Here I sit at L.A. County/USC Hospital with my third bout of PCP and a host of other medical problems, to bear witness that anyone can catch AIDS.

**I** was diagnosed with AIDS in June of 1987. My lover (at that time) and myself had been sick with flu-like symptoms for about two months. I went to a neighborhood clinic, while my lover tried home remedies. Because I didn't fit the stereotype of a gay man or an IV drug user, my doctor didn't suggest that I take an HIV test. He said that all I had was a bad case of bronchitis and prescribed an antibiotic. The medicine helped some and I got a little better, but I was still weak and still couldn't breathe well. I was relieved it wasn't the Big A, and went back to work.

My friend continued to deteriorate before my eyes, but refused to seek medical attention, until the night I had to drag him physically to the emergency room. While he was in the hospital, for the first time, I sat and thought rationally. Colds, flu and bronchitis don't last for three and four months, and because of my past behaviors, if anyone was a candidate for AIDS it was me.

So I went and had the HIV test and it came back positive. At about the same time, my friend was diagnosed with ARC. I received counseling at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and was told not to be discouraged because being HIV positive didn't mean I would come down with







*So I continued having sex with people I didn't know, working the clubs and adult bookstores, having three-way and four-way sex, smoking dope and drinking until I was so high all I cared about was who I could have that night.*

AIDS.

So once again I held on to my denial of having AIDS. My friend eventually got better and was released from the hospital, while I had embarked on my acting career. I landed a small part in a movie and had just gotten the lead role in an off-Hollywood play. I was on the top of the world and felt everything was going to be all right.

During rehearsals for the play, I began getting sick again. So I went back to the same doctor. This time, I was honest and told him about my positive test results. He looked me square in the eye and said that he could no longer help me and that I should go to the hospital. The first words out of my mouth were, "Can't that wait? The play opens within the week." The doc said, "No. Go immediately."

Off I went to County General Emergency Room, where I was admitted within an hour (a hospital record). A few days later, I got the news from my new doctor. He said, "Mr. Pamplin, you have PCP pneumonia, which is one of the two major diseases that accompany AIDS." In essence, he said, "You have the Big A."

Two weeks and a holiday later (I spent 4th of July in the hospital), I was released from the hospital and sent home. As I lay in my bed still sick from PCP and the medicines, it hit me. I have AIDS. I am going to die. Not just die, but waste away, die a horrible, painful death. I thought I'd never see my kids grow up, or love someone again, or play in the park with my dogs again. I was scared and angry at the whole world, especially God.

**I**t's been almost two years since then, and I'm still here. My friend, Robbie, wasn't so lucky. He died from PCP two months after his release from the hospital. I'm still here only through the grace of God. I have the best support system a person could have.

First and foremost, I have God in my life. Before I didn't. Then there is my family in Chicago. And my spouse, Deryl, who sticks by me through thick and thin. Then there is my best buddy, Greg Hill, and a host of other friends, too numerous to name. Besides all these loved ones. I have my will to fight, to survive.

Oh, believe me, I get tired of being sick and wish God would call me on home. I've even considered suicide (even to this day). The only reason I haven't done it is because of my strong belief that God isn't done with me yet—that He (or She) still has work for me to accomplish. Maybe it's to educate someone about the HIV infection to keep them from making the same mistakes that I did, or maybe it's to help another PWA through hard times. I really don't know. It's all God's will. I continue to pray that God keeps using me in whatever ways possible—that he continues to give me strength and guidance on this journey through life.

I didn't always feel this way. At first I was angry with God. I mean, what kind of God creates such a monster? What kind of God lets so many people die? And then there is the question we've all asked at one time or another: Why Me? Why me, God? Have I been that bad? Since then I've thought: Why not me? I had an active choice in the matter. I decided not to listen and modify my behavior. So I can't blame anyone but myself: Roger Pamplin. Besides maybe God has a purpose behind this whole thing. Maybe He is using me to reach out to others. I hope so. I wouldn't wish this disease on my worst enemy.

I hope you listen carefully to my story and take heed. I hope you realize anyone can catch AIDS. Protect yourself with knowledge and condoms. And please change your sexual behavior. AIDS is real and it's gonna be around awhile. Remember that blacks (and others) do catch AIDS. I know. I'm a witness.



## U.S. Appeals Court Tells Army to Reinstate Black Soldier but Avoids Hearing Constitutional Issue

SAN FRANCISCO (LAT, NYT)—In a 7-4 decision, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Army to reinstate black openly gay Sgt. Perry Watkins who was discharged for homosexuality in 1984, but refused to rule on whether military regulations against gay and lesbian soldiers are unconstitutional.

Ruling on the narrow issue of the 1984 discharge, the court majority held that it did not need to decide that Watkins's constitutional rights had been violated before ordering him reinstated.

"This is a case where equity cries out and demands that the Army be estopped from refusing to re-enlist Watkins on the basis of his homosexuality," Judge Harry Pregerson wrote for the majority.

"To estop the Army from denying Sgt. Watkins's re-enlistment on the basis of his homosexuality would not disrupt any important military policies or adversely affect internal affairs," the majority said. "It would simply require the Army to continue to do what it has repeatedly done for 14 years with only positive results: re-enlist a single soldier with an exceptionally outstanding military record."

While noting that the courts cannot review all actions by the military, the ruling said the Army had "plainly acted affirmatively in admitting, re-classifying, re-enlisting, retaining and promoting" Sgt. Watkins.

By law, the courts are limited in the cases in which they can interfere with governmental decision-making. Under the doctrine of equitable estoppel, a court must find that the government has engaged in affirmative misconduct, that the government's misconduct will cause a serious injustice and that stopping the government from continuing the wrong will not cause undue harm to the public interest.

In using those criteria, the court adopted a less stringent test for judicial intervention in military affairs than has traditionally been applied—a test which has historically allowed such intervention only when constitutional rights have been violated. Thus, the majority neatly sidestepped the constitutional issue, but was still able to order Watkins reinstated.

But four judges dissented, in large part questioning the majority's exercise of judicial review over military decision-making. Judge Cynthia Holcomb called the decision an "unwarranted application of common law principles to matters within the military's expertise."

"There is no doubt that the majority's intrusion into military affairs unjustified by important federal interests will have a disruptive effect on military discipline," she wrote, accusing the majority of simply ordering Watkins reinstated because of a "steadfast desire" to avoid deciding the constitutional issues in the case.

Indeed, Watkins's attorney, James Lobenz called the court's failure to uphold a earlier ruling by a three-judge panel that provided broad constitutional protections for gay men and lesbians in the military "a blessing in disguise."

"If they had decided the case favorably to Sgt. Watkins on those grounds, the chances would be greatly increased, to a near certainty, that the case would go to the U.S. Supreme Court, and who knows what would happen there," he said.

Only two of the concurring judges, William A. Norris and William C. Canby, held that the court should have granted

Watkins's appeal on the basis of the right of equal protection. The two judges represented the majority when the three-judge panel of the court issued its ruling in February.

"The Army's regulations violate the constitution guarantee of equal protection of the laws because they discriminate against persons of homosexual orientation, a suspect class, and because the regulations are not necessary to promote a legitimate compelling governmental interest," Judge Norris wrote.

An Army spokesperson said it was too early to say whether the reinstatement order would be appealed and declined to comment on the opinion in detail. Lobenz said that Watkins, who currently works for the United States Forestry Service in Seattle, would re-enlist if the Justice Department decides not to appeal the ruling.

Watkins, 40, stated on his pre-induction medical form at the time he was drafted in 1967 that he had homosexual tendencies. He again identified himself as gay on several occasions throughout his Army service, and was allowed to re-enlist, despite the Army's avowed policy against recruiting or retaining gay men and lesbians.

In evaluations throughout his military service, supervisors praised Watkins for doing "a fantastic job." He was, one commanding officer said, "the best clerk I have ever known." Watkins was recommended for discharge after the Army drafted revised regulations in 1981 mandating the discharge of all homosexuals, regardless of merit. He sued for reinstatement and the Army retirement benefits he claimed to have earned.

Lobenz compared the legal doctrine used by the majority to promising a child dessert if he eats his carrots then, after he eats his carrots, telling him the parent has changed his mind, and he won't get dessert after all.

"If the government tells you for years and years, we don't care if you're gay, it's not a bar to your military career, and then you spend 15 years of your life in the military, and then they said, 'Hey, we changed our mind, you're gone,' that's not fair," the lawyer said. By applying the doctrine to the military, he went on, the court broadened its own jurisdiction over military affairs, at least in the 9th Circuit.

The ruling does not affect the cases of other gay men and lesbians discharged from the military that are currently pending in various courts on constitutional grounds.

## L.A. Gets New Magazine

LOS ANGELES—*The Real Read*, a new bimonthly publication for black lesbians and gay men, published its debut issue last month. Edited by long-time activist Ron Grayson and Cleo Manago, co-founders of Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice, the premiere issue featured a number of articles on the 1988 and 1989 Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conferences as well as other subjects, including the late Joe Beam, Ida Wells-Barnett, Earthlife and AIDS. The 44-page publication also included cartoons and poetry.

*The Real Read* can be contacted at Box 29870, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Their phone number is 213-664-0234 or 213-225-6769.



## Curtis Tucker Jr. Gets MECLA Award for Dad

LOS ANGELES—California Assemblyman Curtis Tucker, Sr. was posthumously honored at the 12th Annual Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) awards dinner on May 13. The special tribute was accepted by Curtis Tucker, Jr. who was elected to succeed his father as assemblyman in February representing the Inglewood area.

The senior Tucker was honored for his steadfast and often feisty support for AIDS issues in the Assembly Health Committee, which he chaired until his death last November.

MECLA's co-chair, Bevan Dufty, is the gay fundraising organization's only African American member. Other black politicians in attendance at the \$250-a-plate affair were Los Angeles City Councilman, Bob Farrell and Los Angeles School Boardmember, Rita Walters. State Senator Diane Watson was represented by her chief deputy, Charles Stewart.

## New L.A. Black Lesbian Panel to Meet Monthly

LOS ANGELES—Women who attended last month's planning meeting for a black lesbian conference have voted to meet regularly on the third Sunday of every month from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

The objective, according to Gini Morton, a planning meeting spokesperson, is "to create and renew bonding between black lesbians in California and nationally, empower and support black lesbians, [and assure] that the process of organizing and putting on the conference be inclusive."

Although the Conference will be open to all women regardless of race or sexual preference, planning meetings are open only to black lesbians. For further information, contact Deborah, the chairperson for June's meeting, at 213-969-8046.



As part of its "Hot, Horny and Healthy" workshop program, 20 men from around the country gathered in Los Angeles the weekend of May 26 to learn how to train others to become workshop trainers. Sponsored by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association, Black and White Men Together, the workshops show how safe sex can be both erotic and fun. Assembled for a group photo at the weekend's concluding picnic are (first row, from left) Kevin Jones; George Bellinger Jr.; Kim Sharp; Laverne Middleton; Harold Robinson; A. Billy S. Jones; (second row) John Teamer; Les Everett; Bobby Smith, West Coast coordinator; Leon White; Gavin Morrow-Hall; James Credle; (third row) Reginald Williams, project director; Tony Horne; Duncan Teague; Al Cunningham; R. J. Johnson; Roger Pamplin Jr.; Phill Wilson, health education trainer; and Eric Perez, East Coast coordinator.



# Winfrey Rumor Proves Untrue, Reporter Fired, Papers Removed; Beau Said to Reconsider Union

CHICAGO—A rumor that TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey caught her fiancé and her male hairdresser together in a compromising situation is apparently untrue. Reports confirm that Winfrey, boyfriend Stedman Graham and beautician André Walker were in separate locations at the time the alleged confrontation occurred.

The rumor has reportedly given Graham second thoughts about marrying the TV star and living in the "fishbowl" of public scrutiny, according to the *Star*. It has left him worried about the story's impact on his 12-year-old daughter, the paper reports.

The rumor first surfaced in print on May 14, when Ann Gerber included the following item in her "On the Town" column which appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times*: "Can it be true that the lover of one of our richest women was found in bed with her hairdresser when she returned early from a trip abroad? The battle that ensued brought her screaming out onto Lake Shore Drive, shocking her staid neighbors."

According to one unconfirmed report, the allegation, which surfaced in early May and spread through the streets of Chicago before being picked up by Gerber, had been concocted by a group of employees at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange "to see how fast a rumor could spread."

Eventually it spread to *Entertainment Tonight* where, on May 18, it was picked up and given national exposure. Reported TV anchorwoman Mary Hart: "Rumors claim the woman is popular talk show host Oprah Winfrey. They say she found boyfriend Stedman Graham in bed with her hairdresser in her Chicago condo." Hart did, however, take away what she gave by adding: "At this point we at *Entertainment Tonight* have uncovered nothing to suggest that it is true."

At first, the three steadfastly refused to dignify the gossip with a response. But as the rumor refused to die and culminated in the *Entertainment Tonight* report, the following day Winfrey made an on-air denial in front of her TV audience. Without specifying the details, she referred to "a rumor that I think deserves addressing" and added: "It is a vicious, malicious lie and no part of it, absolutely no part of it is true...I have chosen to speak up because this rumor has become so widespread and so vulgar that I just wanted to go on record and let you know that it is not true..."

She went on: "Those of you who are repeating it, those of you who are listening to it, those of you who will hear it for the first time and are now saying 'What is she talking about?' There is absolutely no truth whatsoever to any part of it. It is vulgar and I also believe that it is evil."

The rumor apparently mutated into several versions. In one, Winfrey walked into her condo at the Ritz-Carlton, caught her 33-year old fiancé in bed with her hairdresser, grabbed a butcher knife and stabbed Graham. According to this version, he was taken, bleeding, to the 15th floor of nearby Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The hospital has no record of Graham being treated.

In another version, the incident occurred at Graham's apartment.

In another version, Winfrey shot twice into the ceiling.

In another version, Winfrey shot Graham repeatedly.

In another version, Winfrey's trip abroad became a trip from the West Coast.

But the building's security guards have denied knowledge of any such incident, as have neighbors in surrounding buildings. Chicago police also have no record of any incident involving Winfrey or Graham.

The *Chicago Sun-Times* reporter who put the story in

print has responded to the controversy by saying, "I'm very fond of Oprah, and I feel very badly about this. It all began with a blind item in my Sunday column." In her column three days later, Gerber denied the rumor mentioning Winfrey and Graham by name.

Nine days following her article, *Sun-Times* vice president and executive editor Kenneth Towers fired Gerber "because of basic differences between himself and Ms. Gerber regarding the journalistic standards used in producing her column."

## Los Angeles Panel OKs AIDS Training Funds

LOS ANGELES—City Council has unanimously approved a bill allocating \$600,000 for the recruitment and training of home health aides for PWAs and people with ARC (PWARCs). The two-year contract with Community Bilingual Home Health programs in Highland Park will be financed from the city's share of federal Job Training Partnership Act funding.

Trainees in the program will receive classroom instruction and clinical training leading to employment with home health agencies providing in-home care to PWAs and PWARCs.

Training will be offered at the following six sites around the city: Arroyo Vista Family Health Center (Highland Park); Westminster Neighborhood Center (South Central); Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center (Hollywood); West Hollywood Park; Minority AIDS Project (South Central) and El Proyecto Del Barrio (San Fernando Valley).



"Don't come back telling me you fished all weekend on Fire Island unless you bring me back something to fry!"

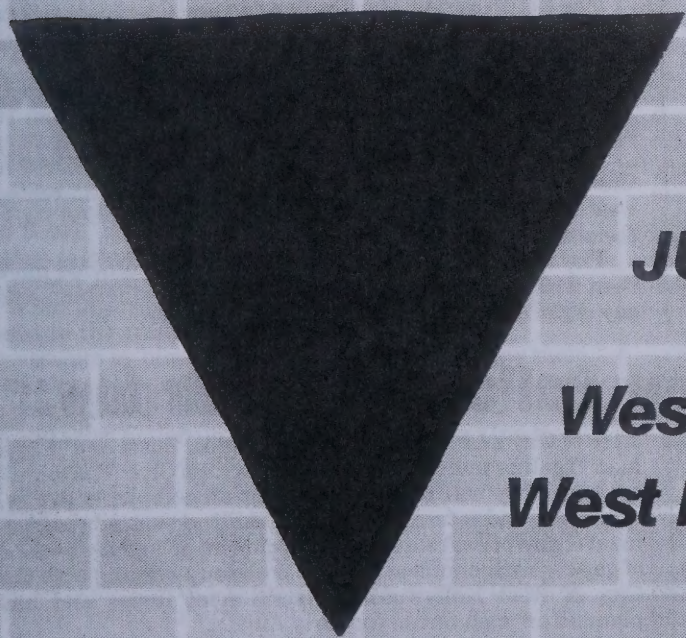


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# Waters Tapped for Marshall in Pride Parade; Carl Bean, Virginia Uribe to Receive Top CSW Honors

By Mark Haile  
BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—The 1989 Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade will be led by Maxine Waters, black member of the California State Assembly, as Grand Marshall. Waters was selected for the honor in tribute to her tireless dedication in support of the lesbian and gay community.

The Christopher Street West parade is the third largest in California, with more than 300 vehicles and more than 1000 men, women and children marching. Nearly 300,000 spectators are expected to line Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood for the parade on Sunday, June 25. The procession will be carried live via satellite to cable TV stations across the United States.

The Christopher Street West Festival will honor Rev. Carl Bean of Unity Fellowship Church and Minority AIDS Project as Man of the Year, and Virginia Uribe, founder of Project 10, as Woman of the Year.

Rev. Bean will join Rev. Nancy Wilson, Rev. Ron and Sandy Scott, Rabbi Denise Eger, and other spiritual leaders of the lesbian and gay community in conducting an interdenominational healing service for people with AIDS, ARC, HIV infection, and other illnesses on Saturday, June 24 at 3 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium.

For the first time, this year's celebration will include a fireworks show on Saturday evening at 10 p.m. The two days of festivities will also include a wide variety of non-stop entertainment on two stages, the largest open air disco in the country, and more than 250 booths offering information, food, arts and crafts, games and prizes.

Among participating organizations of special interest to the black lesbian and gay community are the Minority AIDS Project, Catch One Disco, Unity Fellowship Church, Connexus, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, Black and White Men Together/L.A., Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and BLK.

"It is an honor to be selected as the 1989 Grand Marshall for the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade," stated Assembly-member Waters upon the announcement. "The accomplishments of the lesbian and gay community have contributed



Maxine Waters

to the advancement of human rights throughout the world."

The eighth annual Run for Lesbian and Gay Pride will be held the Sunday prior to the parade on June 18 in Griffith Park.

The festival will open on Saturday, June 24 at noon, closing at midnight, re-opening on Sunday, June 25 from 10 am to 11 p.m.

The parade will step off at 12:30 p.m. from the corner of Crescent Heights and Santa Monica Boulevards, marching west to San Vicente Boulevard and West Hollywood Park, the site of the festival.

The 1988 parade and festival were able to provide more than \$100,000 through community grants to lesbian and gay organizations across Southern California.

## Ousted Members Form New Police Liaison Group

By L. Lloyd Jordan  
BLK Contributing Writer

LOS ANGELES—Members of minority oriented organizations and others have founded a new coalition to address law enforcement issues. The new group, Advocates for Better Law Enforcement (ABLE), intends to work with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Division in West Hollywood for recruitment of openly lesbian and gay officers and to oppose harassment of gay bars and individuals.

ABLE has been meeting in Silverlake since its founders were expelled from the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force (GLPATF) in April when Stonewall Democratic Club executive committee members seized control of the Task Force to re-install one of their members, Marshal Phillips, as co-chair. Rather than continue to challenge Phillips and the election process, expelled members decided to end the dispute by starting a rival coalition.

ABLE includes individual members as well as representa-

tives of Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos, Black and White Men Together and Harvey Milk Democratic Club. The founders hope they will be able to develop an acceptable gay recruitment and retention plan for LAPD, do a needs assessment of gay/police relations and document police harassment of gay civilians or officers. ABLE is already working with the City of West Hollywood on recruitment issues and has planned an open forum for early August.

Neither the old nor the new coalition is any longer discussing reconciliation. GLPATF's acting co-chairwoman, Ivy Bottini, who is also Stonewall's president, has publicly welcomed the new organization. Throughout the controversy she has maintained that she is willing to address all issues of concern to the expelled lesbians and gays of color, with the exception of Marshal Phillips' retention of the co-chairmanship.

"There is nothing that would lead me to believe that she even realizes what was done. The level of insensitivity is so great that I don't even think she gets it yet," said Mario Soliz-Marich, acting spokesman of ABLE.



# Harvey Milk Demo Club Leaves Cop Task Force

LOS ANGELES—The Southern California Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club announced that it had resigned its position on and withdrawn its support from the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force.

In a statement issued to the press and later published as an ad in *The News*, the club stated: "Through vote stacking and covert maneuvering, a totally unrepresentative 'leadership' faction has recently and illegitimately taken control and subverted the mission of the organization. The shameful events over the last few months have demonstrated a complete contempt on their part for issues of any peoples other than their cronies."

The statement continued: "The disgraceful actions of and derogatory comments from Task Force co-chair Marshal Phillips (also member, Stonewall Democratic Club Executive Committee) and interim co-chair Ivy Bottini (also president, Stonewall Democratic Club) have resulted in the perception of racism and elitism among participants and observers alike. The Harvey Milk Democratic Club cannot condone the actions of the 'leadership' nor can we abide the slightest hint of racism or ulterior motives."

The statement concluded: "Their conduct is indefensible, embarrassing, reprehensible, and totally intolerable in our community, and we at Harvey Milk Democratic Club refuse to accept it."

The Southern California Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club is one of the founding members of the new formed police liaison group, Advocates for Better Law Enforcement.

# Essex Hemphill Seeks Black Gay Manuscripts

PHILADELPHIA—Essex Hemphill, poet and publisher of Be Bop Books, Washington, D.C., will complete the editing of *Brother to Brother: New Writing by Black Gay Men* on which Joseph Beam was at work at the time of his death. Barbara Smith, writer and publisher of Kitchen Table Press will assist in the reading of submitted materials.

Manuscripts by black gay men about the black gay male experience are being sought.

Manuscripts may be submitted in the following forms: Essays and short fiction (up to 5,000 words), poetry (no more than five poems), brief excerpts from plays and novels, letters, journal entries, performance pieces, narratives and interviews.

Subjects of interest include: coming out, coping and intimate relationships, family interactions (particularly fathers), interactions with the communities in which we live, rural living, youth substance abuse, spousal abuse, the military, incarceration, the arts, gay activism, AIDS, oral histories regarding black gay life in previous decades, how to create positive self-images, male bonding/brotherhood, aging and erotica.

The deadline for submission of poetry and prose manuscripts has been extended to June 30, 1989.

All manuscripts must be typed and doubled-spaced (no exceptions) on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper with the contributor's name on each page. Contributors should also include their phone number. Manuscripts should be sent in duplicate, with sufficient return postage, to: Brother to Brother, Box 30024, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

# BLK VEIL

## PHILIP BLACKWELL

Philip Blackwell, 37, playwright, actor and athlete, died of complications from AIDS February 14 in N.Y. Raised in Minneapolis, he graduated from the University of Minnesota and earned his master's from Tufts in 1980. He was *The Advocate's* first black cover model in 1975. In the 1986 Gay Games II competition, Blackwell earned medals in long distance races. Blackwell co-founded the Twin Cities Black Theater Alliance and was vice president of Data Arts, Ltd. He is survived by his parents, sister and brother.

## DALLAS CLEMMONS

Dallas Clemmons was born June 28, 1951 and died May 14, 1989 in Clarksburg, Mississippi. A nurse, Clemmons lived in San Francisco and was a member of BWMT/SF. He is survived by his mother and grandmother.

## CHRISTOPHER DEANE

Christopher Deane died of complications from AIDS at the age of 39 on May 13 at Brownlie Hospice in Los Angeles. He held a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music and sang opera. Deep, resonant voice was a delight to the ear. A long time employee of the L.A. Public Library, he often participated in BWMT/LA activities. His resonant bass will be deeply missed.

## TROY JOHNSON

Gordon Troy Johnson died of complications from AIDS May 14, 1989 in Los Angeles. Born in Detroit, Johnson held a master's in social work from Arizona State University. He worked for Los Angeles County with the developmentally disabled, and had opened his own firm when he was diagnosed in 1988. Johnson had been active with NAACP and the Hollywood-Sunset Community Clinic. He is survived by his father, foster mother and lover of eight years, Bruce Coplen.

## ROBERT JOE HEWITT

Funeral services were held May 25, 1989 for Robert Joe Hewitt who died May 19, 1989 in Los Angeles at the age of 36. A licensed journeyman plumber, he graduated from Jordan High and attended Los Angeles City College. He is survived by his mother, wife, three children, two sisters, two brothers, nephews and nieces.

## ARTHUR LOMBARD

Arthur Lombard died in New Orleans on May 12, 1989 of complications from AIDS. He was 29. He is survived by his brother, Juan, among others.

## ERNESTO G. PHILPOTTS

Dr. Ernesto G. Philpotts died April 21 after living with AIDS for more than a year and a half. Philpotts, who was born March 11, 1948 in Colon City, Panama, worked with the Philadelphia Department of Health and Human Services for nearly nine years. He founded the Finesse Modeling School. Philpotts was an affiliate member of ADODI/Philadelphia, and was active in AIDS-related organizations, including We the People and the Burning Bush. The latter two are accepting donations in his memory.



# It's Gonna Be A **Catch One Summer!**

Memorial Day Weekend  
Summer Kick-Off!  
After Hours Party!  
Sunday, May 28

Catalina Boat Cruise!  
Friday, July 28

Christmas in July!  
Tuesday, July 18

**PICO BEACH!**  
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday  
beginning June 4!  
Come dressed to get wet!

July 4th!  
Holiday Weekend  
**BLOW OUT!**

Coming Home for Friends II  
The concert of the year!  
Minority AIDS Project benefit  
at the Shine  
Saturday, July 8

Juneteenth Celebration!  
Sunday, June 18

Support Catch One's  
Float & Burger Stand  
Gay Pride Week Festival  
West Hollywood  
June 24 & 25

## **CATCH ONE DISCO**

4067 W. PICO BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90019



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

By now everyone knows what our infallible sources in Chicago's Southside hair salons have been telling us for weeks: poor, dear **Oprah** could not possibly have caught her delicious, live-in lover, **Stedman Graham**, in *flagrante delicto* between her own silk sheets with her hairdresser, **André Walker**—'cuz André, well-known in gay circles, is not at all Stedman's type!...No, dears it's *not* true: owner **Joe Beasley** assures us that the **Caper Room**, the Inglewood, bar just south of L.A., where "five no-trump" is considered *low* as an opening whist bid, but low bids with men get you over, is not up for sale to the highest bidder. Where the rumor got started Joe says he can't imagine...What dashing TV talk show host/actor recently moved from his West Hollywood condo just off Santa Monica Blvd. and, despite the rainbow of women he always had in tow, once stepped into a gay neighbor's flat to check out his leather drag?...Profilin' on Sunday in Los Angeles is still best done at **Jewel's Room**, where **Désirée** recently turned 'em all out in white pantsuit and boater, blonde tresses and cleavage festooned with a black rose. But **Alex** styled right back in a jet suit accessoried in gold, her hair sheared short on the sides, but rising in an angled sharkfin on top. **Brenda** was equally sleek in yellow broadshoulders, her hair erupting over her forehead—and her hand in Alex's. **Judie Jones** gave us that oldtime cabaret on stage, then let her son, **Kenneth**, take the mike. His solo version of "What's Goin' On" was sensuously soulful, then we got it in Dolby Sound when **Unique** joined her voice to his from the backroom, and the spontaneous duo drowned us in get-down sound. Unique's perfect hair, skin and figure were wound up tight in a black dress so short her shoulder bag hung below her hem. She moved like satin, smiled silk, sang like a siren—and talked about her agent. But sitting alone and unadorned, rapt in the music, was **Christine Tripp** of **Makeda**, looking lovelier, sweeter than we've ever seen her...Also in L.A.: Eat your hearts out, **Rage** and **Studio One**. **Madonna** and **Warren Beatty**, who manage to keep their names in the tabloids if not on the marquees, are hangin' out at **Catch One** these days, where, no doubt they're indulging in a common fantasy of Anglo stars—imagining they've just discovered a dangerously chic cultural happening *à la* Harlem in the '20s....**Ron Grayson** of **The Real Read** is embarrassing all those folks who're using AIDS as an excuse not to keep themselves up. Girl-friend has a new hairdo and wardrobe to flatter that new slim waist, and is hotter now than before ever meeting Mr. HIV, which shows you just can't let a no-good man get you down...What d'ya s'pose **Eddie Murphy**, **Michael Spinks**, **Luther Vandross** and **Mike Tyson** are all doing together on June 10 in N.Y. City? Co-hosting **Dionne Warwick's** "That's What Friends Are For" Concert at Lincoln Center to benefit kids with AIDS. Wonder if she's having to twist Eddie's arm? Need help, Dionne?...Love is still busting out all over at L.A.'s **Unity Fellowship Church**. On the 14th it was announced before the congregation that **Frankie Lennon** of MAP and **Kaseema** are gonna walk down that aisle together...At **Jewel Williams'** standing-room-only **Catch One** banquet in celebration of her 50th birthday, **Lady BJ** blew "I Sing This Song To You," and the children wept. Afterwards, Jewel one-upped **Rev. Carl Bean** by not only proposing to **Rue Thaïs** in mid-program from *her* sanctuary (as Rev did only last month from *his*) but then presented her fiancée with a diamond-encrusted ring. Don't look for your invite to the union ceremony 'till September 'cuz the search

has just begun for an edifice grand enough for the occasion...But the Rev was not to be outdone. He arrived back in town from Italy with a gift for the man he's been courting, **Gene Cornelius**. Next day, in church, Nelius relieved everyone's suspense (yawn) by announcing, "To end further speculation, I received an engagement ring last night brought from Venice. I have decided to accept it." We would too if an 18 carat boulder dropped on us from above...Did'ya hear **Paul Davis** of **X-Calibre** signed on **Minority AIDS Project** as health education manager? Did'ya hear MAP's staff didn't get their invitations to Paul's May 19th Red & White birthday bash until they met his salary demands? Never happened...Wisdom from rap master **Ice T**: "The bottom line of the gangs is to get girls. Men only work behind women. Men's lives revolve around what's gonna get them the women. And that's what gets women, acting macho." Guess that's why there are no gay gang bangers. And we thought it was because you had to pass a stupidity test...Guess what superstar's dad likes to open Spanish flies in L.A. boy bars?...AIDS Project Los Angeles is looking more and more colorful all the time, what with **Don** and **Michelle Williams** (unrelated) on staff, plus **Jai** and **Ada Page** (married) newly hired. Jai and Ada are one of those crazyfun couples who always carry their smiles with them, which black folks in the bowels of APLA need to do. Their new boss, **Steve Bennett**, has been oozing southern charm all over black gay and AIDS activists. Now if he could just lose that Dixie drawl...When **Phill Wilson** told us he was calling from Kaiser Hospital last week where he was being checked out for chest pains, we were so busy scolding him for running himself ragged that we forgot to wish him a speedy recovery. But the doctors confirmed our diagnosis of exhaustion (and mild pericarditis), and ordered him to REST for the first time in two years. Hear that **Phill**? R-E-S-T...On the literary scene, **Alyson Publications** has just released **The Buccaneer**, a tale of white outlaws who love to pirate booty, especially if its black. **The Alyson Almanac** of gay trivia, while diverting, allots more lines to West Hollywood porn star-cum-politician **Steve Schulte** than to **Bayard Rustin**, and omits the fact that **Audre Lorde** is black. **Essex Hemphill's** new book, **Soft Targets**, is due out any moment, and **Asotto Saint's Stations**, a poetry collection, is in print by **Galiens Press**. New Jersey's **Vega Studios** is coming out with a new July anthology, **Men of Color: An Essay on the Black Male Couple**, illustrating in poetry, prose and photography the fierce/fragile beauty of black gay male bonding...T to spill? Dial us at 213/410-0808 and whisper in our ear. Your friends'll never know, unless of course, they read lips...



Birthday Girl Jewel Williams (right) with her intended, Rue Thaïs. Photo by Bill Doggett.

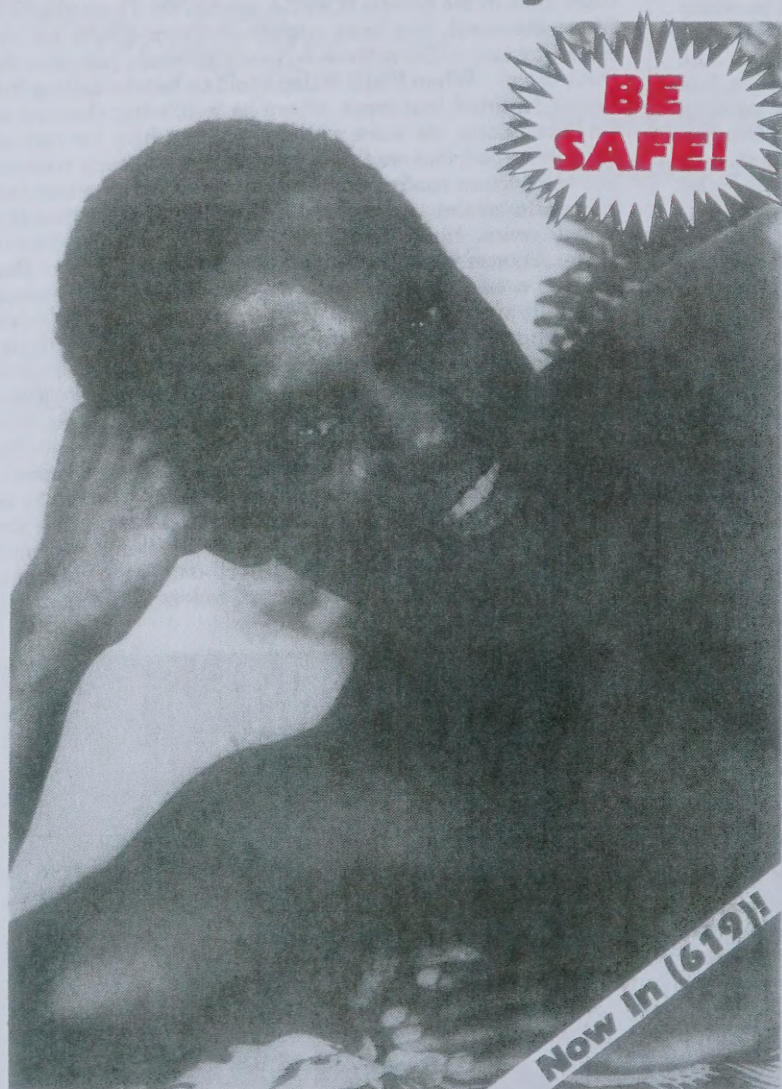


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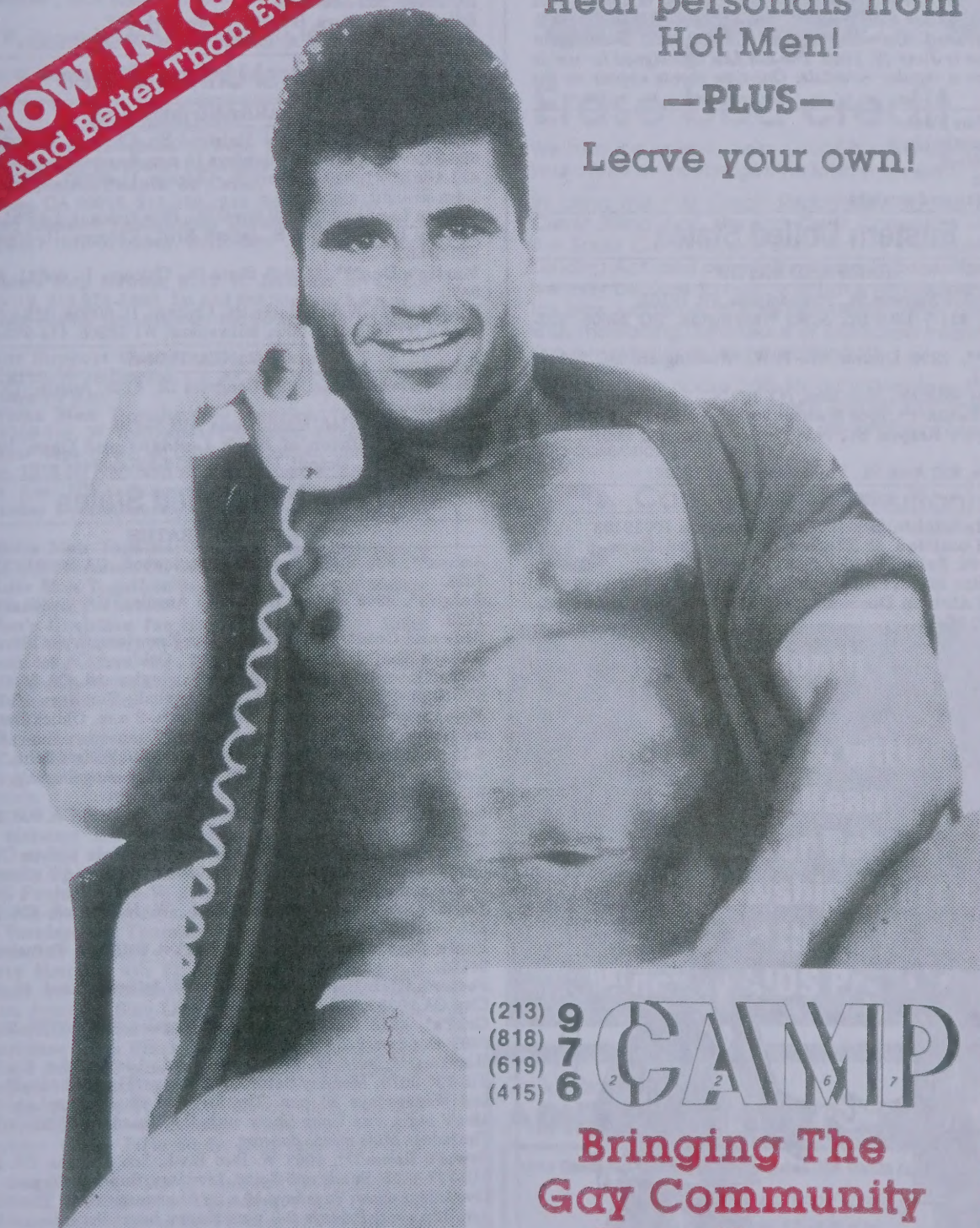


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# BLK LIST

If you want your organization Blk Listed, drop a note to Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the July issue is June 19, 1989. The Blk List is designed for events that occur on a regular schedule. One-time events appear on the Blk Board.

\*Somewhat black  
 \*\*Significantly black  
 \*\*\*Mostly black  
 \*\*\*\*All black  
 †Mixed gay and straight

## Eastern United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Allegro II**, 2056 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
**Brass Rail**, 811 - 13th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202-628-6496.  
**Clubhouse\*\***, 1296 Upshur St., N.W., Washington, DC 20011, 202-882-7471.  
**Kellers\***, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014.  
**Mt. Morris Baths\*\*\***, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035.  
**Nob Hill**, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington, DC 20010, 202-797-1101.  
**Smart Place**, 922 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**ADODI/Philadelphia**, Box 19132, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
**Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.  
**BEBASHI**, Box 26388, Philadelphia, PA 19141, 215-546-4140  
**Gay Men of African Descent**, Box 2519, New York, NY 10185-0021, 718-260-9541.  
**National Minority AIDS Council**, 714 G St., S.E., Washington,

DC 20003, 202-544-1076.

**Salsa Soul Sisters**, Box 1119, New York, NY  
**Zami**, Box 7289, Sta. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X9, Canada

## Central United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Club La Ray\*\*\***, 3150 N. Halstead St., Chicago, IL 60657, 312-525-3150. Sundays and Tuesdays 11 p.m. Amateur talent show.  
**411 Club\*\*\*†**, 411 E. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-684-9387. Days straight, nights gay.  
**Golden Lantern\*\***, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70116.  
**Jeffrey Pub\*\*\***, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, 312-363-8555.  
**Martin's Den\*\*\***, 5550 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60621, 312-363-9470.  
**Rialto\*\*\***, 14 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60604, 312-427-9893.  
**Tina's RT1**, 1843 N. 20th, Milwaukee, WI 53205, 414-933-7577.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Ebony Connection**, 227 Congress St. #125, Austin, TX 78767, 512-478-DRUM.  
**IRUWA**, Box 19146, Minneapolis, MN 55419  
**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219, 313-537-0484.

## Western United States

### BARS AND BATHS

**Annex\*\***, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.  
**Basgo's\***, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.  
**Blue and Gold\*\***, 136 Turk St., San Francisco, CA 94102.  
**Cabel's Reef\*\***, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612.  
**Caper Room\*\*\***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403. Mondays 10 p.m. Sir Marshall; Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male exotic dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Thursdays 9:30 p.m. Caper Connection show; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.  
**Catch One\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.  
**Cottage\*\*\*†**, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.  
**Cover Girl Club\*\*\*†**, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595. Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)  
**Eagle\***, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252.  
**Eagle Creek Saloon** 1884 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94104.  
**Foster's Club Penthouse\*\***, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd. #3, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-837-5881.  
**Griff's\***, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889. Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.  
**Horizon\*\*\***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678. Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Sundays and Wednesdays 10 p.m. The LaVerne Show; Mondays 9 p.m. Men's night and Gong Show with DJ; Tuesdays Wellfare Night; Thursdays Male exotic dancers.  
**Jewel's Room\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.  
**Midtowne Spa\*\***, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price admission.  
**Peacock Alley\*\***, 1271 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103.  
**Pendulum\*\***, 4146 Eighteenth St., San Francisco, CA 94114.  
**Rage\***, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7055. Tuesdays Gong Show, and 10 p.m.-2 a.m. London Life; 3rd Wednesday Fashion Show.



"Hi. Do you believe in interracial sex?"



**Study\*\***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-9551. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour.

#### RESTAURANTS

**Carriage Trade\***, 8225 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, 213-655-6425.

**Casita del Campo\***, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-662-4255.

**Crest\***, 3725 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-660-3645.

**Images\***, 3938 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-665-7390.

#### ORGANIZATIONS

**Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group**, 168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Saturdays 5 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 6 p.m.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-667-2549. Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-274-3398. 1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Jack**, Box 83515, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515, 213-338-1516.

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles**, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716. Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 2nd Sunday 4 p.m. HIV+ Support pot luck dinner (location varies); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering committee meeting (location varies).

**Black and White Men Together/National Association**, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.

**Black and White Men Together/San Francisco**, 2269 Market St. #199, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice**, Box 341412, Los Angeles, CA 90034, 213-664-0234.

**Gentlemen Concerned**, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

**Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women**, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805. Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color; Wednesdays Women of color support group.

**Makeda**, 1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105. Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays 5 p.m. Women's rap group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" black women support group. **Minority AIDS Project**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking support group; Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Aerobic class; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS support group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 7 p.m. Life Beyond Bars; Thursdays 7 p.m. American Sign Language class; Fridays 1 p.m. Family members of AIDS patients support group.

**Planning Committee for a Black Lesbian Conference**, 213-204-3894. Sundays 2:30-4:30 p.m. Black lesbians only (Held at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd.).

**Unity Fellowship Church**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship service; Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible study; Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**, 4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B, Compton, CA 90221, 213-639-3068. Thursdays 7 p.m. Positive approach to wellness support group for PWAs or HIV+s (Held at Watts Health Medical Holistic Center, 7514 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044).

**Womyn of Colors**, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205. Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Z and Z Productions**, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.



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**Next Month  
in BLK  
An Interview with  
Rev Carl Bean  
Prime Mover Behind  
Unity Fellowship Church  
and the  
Minority AIDS Project**

Gay & Lesbian Literature

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# BLK MARKET

## SERVICES

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## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

AIDS Nursing Care: RNs, LVNs, CNAs, all shifts. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (E)

Field Director Sought. National lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual to build and maintain constituent mail/pressure grassroots system. Recruit, motivate and administer local organizers and supervise Regional Field Reps to expand mailgram program, constituent lobbying, house meeting program and other grassroots activities. Strong people skills, detail-oriented, willing to travel critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (7)

Messenger/driver needed for consortium of three companies. Full time days. Beeper provided. Must be dependable, have economical car and clean driving record. Bring proof of insurance and DMV printout to interview. Call Bobby. 213-667-2549. (7)

Outreach Coordinator/South Central Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Foundation, AIDS, hospice, health experience, self-starter. Resume to AHF, 1800 N. Argyle Ave. #304, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (7)

Photo coordinator to secure photographs from black (and otherwise) gay and lesbian (and otherwise) movers and shakers all over the country. Your own hours. No experience necessary, and almost no pay, but you do get to learn the business free. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Recovery Program Manager—gay/lesbian alcohol treatment facility seeks experienced and certified personnel. Prefer recovering, non-smoking gay or lesbian. Call or write for job description. \$19-24K negotiable. Van Ness Recovery House, 1919 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068. 213-463-4266. (8)

Regional Field Rep Sought. National

lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual (to be based in Chicago or North Carolina) to build regional grassroots mail/pressure system. Coordinate house meeting project, seek local groups to canvass community events to expand mailgram program. People skills, detail-oriented and assertive self-starter critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (7)

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (E)

The Minority AIDS Project needs dependable individuals to volunteer in our vital work helping our minority community. Qualifications: a big heart, time, and lots of love. Please call Rudy Cam at 213-936-4949. God loves you. (7)

Volunteer coordinator to keep track of the people who want to help make BLK fly. No experience necessary, and almost no pay. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Positive Image—A nationwide communications network for men who are HIV+, have ARC or AIDS and those who want to communicate with them. Free information. SASE. P/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (7)

AIDS, ARC, HIV+ social group. 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Castro area, San Francisco. Make friends or find a lover. No \$. Free personals list. Call Michael. 415-255-0614. (E)

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Step. 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (7)

San Diego AIDS Project craves black input. Call 619-543-0300. (7)

Ball Club—A nationwide communications network for men who have 'em and men who want 'em. Free information. SASE. BC/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (7)

## WANTED

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also acceptable. Send with SASE

to Revon Kyle Baneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

Women of color wanted for study of female sexuality. If you are lesbian or previously lesbian, but now with men, write Study, 1032 Irving St., Box 443, San Francisco, CA 94122. (7)

Nude Talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (9)

Black male nude models and men that like/desire to show their stuff. New! Black Stallion magazine needs your photos and stories, ads, etc. Also enter our "big dick" contest!!! Send photos to: C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., L.A., CA 90028. (9)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for a roommate for 3-bedroom house. \$350 month including utilities. Call 213-960-7748. (7)

## FOR SALE

Hot Black Men—The East Coast's best black men are in photographs by Weems-Works, now available in erotic photosets or art prints. For sample and brochure, mail request stating age (over 21) and \$10 to David Weems, c/o Weems-Works, Box 22886, Baltimore, MD 21203. (TF)

AIDS—Build up immune system. Preventive treatment. Send money order for \$25 to D. El, Box 21833, Philadelphia, PA 19146 or send SASE for information. (7)

Gay male video available by mail order. Send \$1.00 for list to: W. Hall, Box 40496, Dept. Blk, Pasadena, CA 91114-7496. (9)

Free info for hot sex! More excitement and pleasure! Huge selection of top quality adult male products. Save 30% to 70% off Confidential. Your name and address not released to anyone. CBG, Dept. 06, Box 5225, N. Hollywood, CA 91616. (E)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Australian Rick, blond, blue, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40, offers hot massage, hot spa, warm conversation. Only \$40 in. 213-259-8485. (8)

Every inch! is brought alive and relaxed. \$50 and travel if outside Holly-

wood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (10)

Non-sexual massage by hot BiWM, 195 lbs., 5'10" bodybuilder, big thighs, bubble butt. Certified, with table. \$40/hour. 213-204-6384. (7)

Very attractive black body-builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

WM, 45, seeks dominant BM for good times. Doug. 604-263-3991 (Vancouver). (9)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Am interested in meeting people who like meeting people. Am 47 years old. Like easy-going, yet serious people. Love nature. G.E., Box 2202, St. Augustine, FL 32085. (9)

Professional GWM seeks BM friend. Be adventurous! Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (9)

WM, 32, would like to meet black American, African or Arab for possible friendship. Mike 212-477-5647. (7)

GWM, 40s, 5'7", 135 lbs., G/p, F/a/p wishes to meet masculine black and/or Hispanic men to mutually explore the possibilities from lust to love. Write: Skip, 22 Benson Ave., Pennsville, NJ 08070. (9)

Where have all the older GBM gone? Sincere GWM seeks friend/lover. Box 502, Kenmore, Boston, MA 02215. (8)

GBM, 30, 6'2", 210 lbs., masculine, monogamous, nice-looking, New York City, seeks Puerto Rican, Dominican, South American man, 30-40, nationwide for friendship, relationship. Write with photo. Michael Guthrie, Box 684083, Corona-A, NY 11368. (E)

Attractive GWM, deep blue eyes, beard and moustache, 5'9", seeks masculine GBM who knows himself. Honest, sincere and a good sense of humor. Write with photo. Bruce, Box 2291, Meriden, CT 06450. (8)

Total concrete structure along south Texas Rio Grande available to small-assed, AIDS-tested, dope-free, sex-within-house-only, honest youths. Box 475, Big Pine Key, FL 33043. (E)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53 years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or



active. 40 to 70. No drugs, feds, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ 08607-2223. (9)

Black male, educated, cultured, refined, interested in corresponding and meeting compatible males, any race or religion. Rev. R. J. Strickland, Box 72, Boston, MA 02126-0072. (7)

### PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

Attractive, hot, horny white male seeking attractive, hot black male with a smooth bubble butt to work safely. No drugs, feds or feds. Send photo. Box 7415, Dallas, TX 75209 (9)

Texas BM seeks friends and possibly more from across the country. No drugs or stereotypes. Am mature and professional and seek the same. A Jones, 5951 Melody Lane, Dallas, TX 75231 (9)

Hung like a horse (beercan thick) and can make me take it all? Man enough to invite me into your bed and plow open my bubble? I wanna be taken by aggressive, uninhibited, insatiable black stud like you! You are successful, professional and workalcoholic. A gutsy top with real need and ability to take charge of my body. Me: honest, sincere, freebird, successful, work-alcoholic, 5'6", 145, 44, dark, hairy, Indian/Italian. Details, picture to: Robert, Box 14042, Chicago, IL 60614. (E)

Attractive GWM, 27, seeks handsome, straight-appearing GBM. I'm tall dark and slim; professional; equally enjoy home and nightlife. Prefer tall and muscular, fun-loving guys. Box 486, Danville, IL 61834. (8)

Gay white mid-westerner, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., looking for black men for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (8)

WM, 50, seeks BM, any age, for sincere intimate relationship. No drugs. F/A/P. No G. Anxious to please you and be friends. Bill, Box 9645, Minneapolis, MN 55458. (8)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

### PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160 lbs. quiet, pleasant natured, drug-free, wishes to meet black, married, educated with good body for regular meetings with utmost discretion and safety assured. You be 6'2", + 30-40 yrs., big skin 7+, top, and be genuine, sincere and who wants the best of both worlds. Photo appreciated and returned. No games. Only the serious need apply. BLK Box #4. (9)

Asian, 33, 5'9", seeks athletic 20-35 for safe relationship. 415-827-9973. (9)

2 GWM seek well-hung GBM for safe sex. Box 74030, L.A., CA 90004 (9)

BM wants to meet a very good-looking WM who is mentally and physically capable. Serious men only. 213-969-TAN-U. (7)

Handsome, 60, top, British, seeks creative tongue. Hairy a plus. Pic/phone. Under 45. 8721 Santa Monica #155, L.A. 90069 (8)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (7)

GWM interested in getting together with a top GBM, well hung 9"+, to hump these tight buns at my place in the San Gabriel Valley for a good relationship and good safe sex. If interested, please call 818-369-6350. If no answer, please leave message. You won't be sorry. (8)

GWM, near Long Beach, 53, 6'4", 185, firm bod, intensely erotic, healthy HIV+, seeks very hot top, with flat stomach and thick 8+, for frequent fun. Must be self-supporting. Any race/age. If your mind and heart are as good as your cock, maybe we can become lovers. BLK Box #2. (7)

Butch, 33, good-looking, WM, 6'2", bottom, 210 lbs., BB, 46"C, 33"W, 17"A, bubble butt, professional, new to Huntington Beach, seeks masculine black top only (30-40), dominant, kinky, professional. Call after 6 p.m. 714-969-1582. Mark (8)

Blonde, blue-eyed GM, 45, 5'10", 175 pounds, good body, big arms, seeks black or Latin male, 20-40, thin or muscular, well-hung, top for safe sex. Call 213-285-3579. Leave message. (9)

Hot WM, 38, blond/blue, tan, moustache, wants to meet attractive BM, 20-40, intelligent, sense of humor important. Ph/ph to: Box 8107, Glendale, CA 91224. (9)

Are you a dark GBM, under 29, who enjoys dancing, bodybuilding and is self-sufficient? If yes, and you like what follows, contact me at BLK Box #3. I am 6'1", 151 lbs., 22 years old, fair and in the process of muscular development. Seeking workout partner with interest in a 1-on-1 relationship. (9)

Stocky, white male, 49 (interests: music, travel, intimate moments) seeks black top buddy, 49-65, sensual, intelligent, caring. 415-527-4460 or write Bill, Box 9369, Berkeley, CA 94709. (9)

Uncut, good-looking, African-born white European, muscular, clean-shaven, blue eyes, 29, 5'11", 175 seeks intelligent, masculine, tall, very muscular, hunky black bodybuilder for

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Love Is For Everyone

Rev. Carl Bean,  
P a s t o r

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles,  
California 90016 □ (213) 936-4948



friendship. Box 69A27, L.A. 90069 (8)

Straight black Puerto Rican stud, 42, hung 12x7 needs service from hung 10+. Only reply with photo and phone. Need 100% discretion. Leon Jackson, 8829 National Blvd., #75, Culver City, CA 90232. (7)

Hot, handsome, in-shape GWM, 47, 5'10", 160 lbs., seeks handsome GBM for friendship and much more. Call James. 714-336-1305 (7)

Handsome, articulate BM, 38, 6'2", 175 lbs., swimmer's build, Fr A/P, footage, desires discreet liason with attractive, mature BM, 40-55, fit 6'5", or taller. Your photo gets mine. BLK Box #1. (7)

In-shape older black gentleman with 8" wants to watch 2 young black bucks play in the dark. No participation necessary. Will pay expenses. Discretion essential. Warren, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233. (8)

Free massage for fit, smooth BM with big buns by WM, 36, professional, 6'0", 173 lbs. Mike 213-483-1517. (8)

Michael Rucker: Miss ya. Writel Box 18A255, L.A., CA 90018 (9)

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hollywood, CA 91607. (8)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, California 90004. (11)

Looking for dark, hairy, tall, attractive, nice build, black or Latin-type, between 30-50 years. You must be professional, spiritual, sincere and romantic, and sexually be G/A or F/A/P (safe sex). Nipple play is nice. I am tall, slim, 6'2", 170, 36 years, blond, tan, green-eyed, health-oriented, nice build, G/P. Exchange of photos a must. Larce, 2407 Wilshire Blvd., Box 285, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (7)

GWM, mid-years bodybuilder stud (body of 25 weightlifter ...better!) "great" pecs, wild in the sack (make you groan and burn!), masculine rugged-looking, hot, seeks GBM, bodybuilder or surf body (no plumps!). Photo/phone. Danny, Box 11658 Chandler Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601. I dig massaging (using oil) (7)

Good-looking black athlete, 31, top, masculine, muscular, moustache, seeks younger, masculine, muscular, randy white boys who are bottom, streetwise and live for safe, clean fun. Serious replies only. 619-291-7834. (8)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond, beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. (7)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disap-

pointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

Good-looking, masculine GBM, 6'4", 37, 225 lbs., bearded professional, stalking articulate cuddle-bear, beefy and bearded (well, a moustache'll do) who will savor and succor, challenge and cherish, explore frontiers and footage. Nothing easy sought or offered here, though a bed buddy would appeal: I'm uncertain if I'm focused or generous enough to be anyone's lover. Domestic, I'm not. Being intense, analytical and verbal, similar types attract; others beware. But I do love to laugh. If I sound like the stray pet you've been looking for, write Alex, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-237, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (7)

Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Hollywood, CA 90078. (7)

Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138. (7)

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (8)

I am a 26 year old slightly heavysset black man with a handsome face who is totally straight, but craves a rough and tough black stud to break me in the gay life. I am financially secure, have a nice house and car and also a nice girlfriend, but I'm missing out on something. I would only go with a "black man" who acts black. No "oreos." I also will only go with an attractive man. No fat out-of-shapes or drug users. I am very passionate. I have yet to find a man who can control my high sexual needs. I only want black men who are 10" or more. No sissies or girl-acting men. If you are 25-35 years old and are over 5'9" tall and fit the bill, write me. John, Box 8340, Inglewood, CA 90308. (6)

Butch GWM, 51, seeks GR/A black SFV buddy. 818-766-6033. (6)

Affectionate W/M, 38, 5'3", 128#, blond/green, seeking G/B/W man in his mid-30s who has capacity for love and commitment, educated, self-sufficient, healthy, attractive and willing to share all with his equal. Photo and phone to Box 33834, San Diego, CA 92103. (6)

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• **Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

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• **All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.

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Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

• **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

Please complete and sign the following. This information will not appear in your ad.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

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Deadline for July issue: June 19, 1989.

### Figure cost of ad:

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Cost to run ad one month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone verification at \$1 (outside CA \$3) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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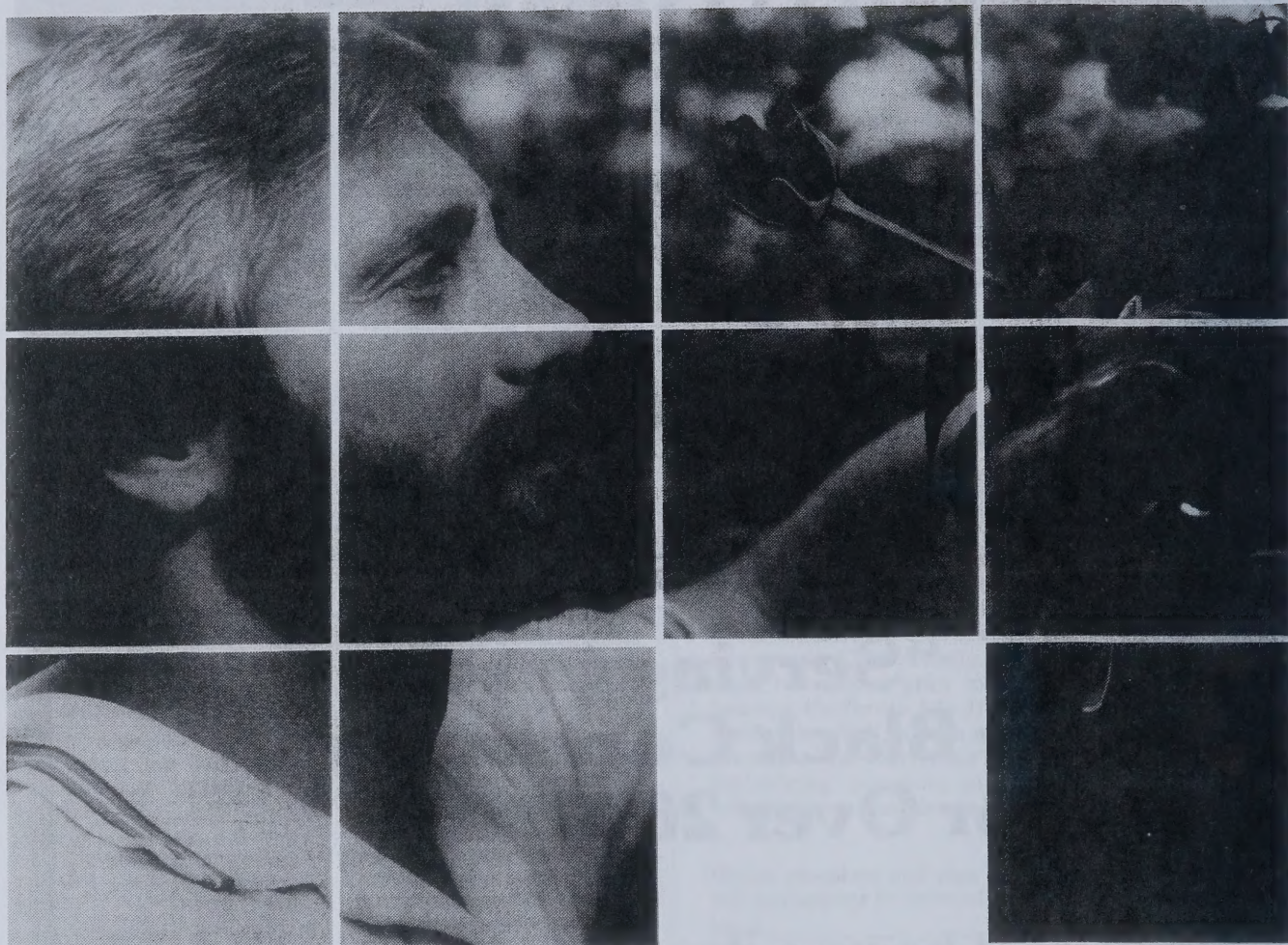
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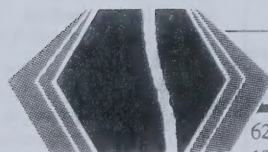
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# BLK

Number 3, February 1989





# LAPIS

## *Creativity Series for Lesbians of Color*

February 11, 1989

**"Writing as a Spiritual/Creative Inlet"**

**Facilitator: Marilyn Cruz**

Writing is an extremely powerful medium to discover and uncover ourselves as creative, whole women. The journey within will be gently facilitated using visualizations and writing exercises.

February 18, 1989

**"We are the Earth: Images of our Bodies in Clay"**

**Facilitator: Venice Peddicord**

Our concept of beauty and images of women's bodies will be translated into the clay; in essence, creating ourselves.

February 25, 1989

**"Lesbian Sexuality: Eroticizing Safe Play for Lesbians"**

**Facilitator: Laura Ramos**

Utilizing visuals and a dialogue format, we will be exploring on of the most creative aspects of ourselves as women, our sexuality. Safe Sex Play for Lesbians will be discussed within this context.

March 4, 1989

To be announced.

March 11, 1989

**"Creating Power Bundles"**

**Facilitator: Rosalie Ortega**

Women will have the opportunity to create physical affirmations. Please bring personal objects.

The workshops will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Milagros Valdes for information and pre-registration at (213) 381-7805

**Cost:** \$5 donation fee for supplies is requested at each session. No one denied service because of inability to pay.

**ACW**

1147 S. Alvarado Street • Los Angeles, CA 90006





# Calendar

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1989

Trip to Las Vegas sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Leave from Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA at 7 a.m. Return to Los Angeles Sunday at 10 p.m. \$25 includes transportation and hotel. For more information, call Gene at 213-298-0656.

Bowling for Dollar\$ sponsored by Unity Fellowship Church. 3-6 p.m. Midtown Bowl, 4645 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. \$4.50 per person entry fee. Free shoe rental. Proceeds to Unity Fellowship Center. For more information, call Valerie at 213-759-1585.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1989

Moonlight Roller Rink Party sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 5110 San Fernando Rd., Glendale, CA. 7:30 p.m. \$5 including skates.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1989

Romantic Videos Night sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 540 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA. 7:30 p.m. Call 213-661-8657 between 7-9 p.m. for more information.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1989

Craig Lee, a former editor of L.A. Weekly, and Vaginal Creme Davis, formerly a singer in the Afro Sisters group, will read from their own works of poetry at A Different Light, 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 7 p.m. Free. 213-668-0629.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1989

Charity Basketball Game sponsored by the Women's Committee of Unity Fellowship Church. YMCA, 3820 Santa Rosalia, Los Angeles, CA. 4-5:30 p.m. \$3. Special guests will include Former Harlem Globetrotter Joyce Walker and USC Alumni Jamaia Bond, Kalan Wright and Yolanda Fletcher. Male members of the church will serve as cheerleaders (complete with pom-poms) and will provide half-time entertainment.

Red and White Valentine's Ball at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 8 p.m.-3 a.m. Roses for early arrivals. Cash prizes for best dressed.

HIV+ Support Group Pot Luck sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 1614 Silverlake Blvd, Los Angeles, CA. 4 p.m.

Special Valentine's Day Male Exotic Show at Caper Room, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA. 10:30 p.m. \$3.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AIDS Institute; 6-8 p.m. Reception at Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA; 8 p.m. "A Tribute to Sylvester" concert starring Chaka Kahn, Jeannie Tracey and Kim Miller at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Con-

ference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration; 9 a.m.-noon Opening session; Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch for PWAs; 1:30-5:30 p.m. Workshop sessions; 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Banquet and dancing with special guests Ja'i and Taurean Blaque.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 9-10:30 a.m. Church service at Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Workshop sessions; 1-3 p.m. Luncheon sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council with special guests Whoopi Goldberg and Natalie Cole; 3-4 p.m. Closing session.

Open house and social reception sponsored by Black Jack on the occasion of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. The Regency Plaza Hotel, 7940 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 7 p.m.-midnight. Free. Non-sexual. Open to non-Black Jack members as well as non-conference participants. 213-338-1516.

Mardi Gras Party at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. After hours.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Last day. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leadership roundtable.

# BLK

Number 3, February 1989

*Edited and published by Alan Bell. Editorial staff:* L. Paul Davis, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Harvey Huggins, Chi Hughes, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen, Jarvis D. Moore, Charles Stewart, Christine Tripp. *Photographic staff:* Bill Doggett, Bob Finney, Terry Johnson, Nathan Turner. *Advertising staff:* Gene Cornelius. *Business staff:* Howard McPhatter.

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Cover photograph: J'ai

Cartoons courtesy Ebony Magazine.  
New captions by BLK.



# J'ai

*The lady sings the blues*

**By Mark Haile**





J'ai tilts back her head and laughs. She's getting used to people being amazed that a young, beautiful singer with such a positive outlook on life could be so thoroughly devoted to the blues.

"The blues are my life," she admits. That much seems natural, being born into a musical family, her father and uncle performing with legends, the likes of Billie Holiday, Lionel Hampton, B.B. King and Dizzie Gillespie.

J'ai was singing before she could walk, writing her first song at 10 years of age. Upbeat and confident, she radiates the same warmth up close that fans know to expect from her on stage. The loyal following that has sprung up across Los Angeles has been treated to an artist who insists on collaborating with her audience.

"I need it!" she exclaims. "I need that interaction. It's my energy. It's a gift to be able to communicate with an audience like that."

Skilled as an actress, singer, radio and television personality, J'ai could easily rocket to stardom as a pop singer. Why choose such a demanding and specialized sound as the blues?

"It's rooted across America—it's our heritage!" she responds. "It's the truest form of American music. I want to bring the blues back." How could she make people relate to the blues in the era of rap music? "Blues are universal," J'ai explains. "Every woman, and every man, too, will relate. If you've ever had a broken heart, or were embarrassed in school when you were six years old...you've had the blues." She points out that the blues are the voices of every day life, good and bad, challenging the misconception of blues as the cry of the victimized and the downtrodden.

"My blues are definitely joyous. It's all done in fun. I want to tell people, look at the blues from the fun side of life! These are the things going on in the world, and this is what we can do about it."

J'ai stresses positive thinking and self-confidence in the songs she writes. "New Day Blues" brings out the influence of the great blues singers whom she studies intensely. From Ida Cox and Ma Rainey to Alberta Hunter Janis Joplin, J'ai researches the styles and forms of the women who paved the way for an independent singer with a vision.

"It makes me more than happy to sing the blues. Who I am is the type of music that I sing. If you believe in yourself, that's when everything happens for you," she asserts.

For J'ai, it has been happening very quickly. During her second professional performance, she had the good fortune to have Teddy Everest, blues guitarist to Billie Holliday, on stage with her. Since her successful European debut, J'ai has performed locally in such clubs as the Cinegrill, At My Place, Bon Appetit and the Rose Tattoo. She has proven as adept at performing for thousands as in intimate settings, as by her appearance at the West Hollywood and Sunset Junction Street Fairs demonstrate.

The intimate relationship that J'ai enjoys with her audience comes out of her intense commitment to incorporate them into her performance. "Without my audience, I'm not me. Once I'm on stage, and I've got my mike, and I've got my audience, I'm okay. I'm doing what most performers only wish they could do—perform exactly what they want to do, and certainly enjoy it! I'm a very lucky person."

J'ai is not a total stranger to the down side of the blues, her mother having died when she was a child. "My mother was my best friend," J'ai remembers. "She's there with me all the time when I'm on stage. She's a big part of me." More recently, the deaths of friends from violence

and AIDS have profoundly affected the singer's life.

On February 3, J'ai will be performing in "The Survivors," a benefit for Being Alive/People with AIDS Action Coalition at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. The evening will be a tribute to people living with AIDS. On February 18, J'ai will be performing at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference at the University Hilton. She will also be performing in At My Place on February 8 in Santa Monica, and later in the month at a \$500 per plate dinner to benefit the Venice Family Clinic. About AIDS, J'ai states emphatically, "If you can do anything to draw attention to it, do it. There are people not doing what they ought to be doing. It's the most dreaded fear the world faces." J'ai matches her actions with her philosophy about the blues as she practices what she preaches. "Do something about it!" she challenges people, as she did when performing at the historic appearance of Jesse Jackson at Catch One in June 1988.

J'ai sums up her quest for making the blues a meaningful tool for life, repeating, "I'm a very lucky person. I'm very blessed. This is my time. I'm dedicated to making the blues accessible to people. This is what it's about, and this is what you've got to do! Things happen for people who believe in themselves and persevere. It will happen for you, it will happen for people."



J'ai



# German Maisonet

## *A doctor talks about health care for blacks in the Age of AIDS*

**By Alan Bell and Jarvis D. Moore**

*German Victor Maisonet-Rodriguez, M.D., F.A.A.P., is a board certified general pediatrician who has had extensive experience with both the chemically dependent and people who are HIV positive.*

*Since his move to Los Angeles in 1978, Maisonet has been professionally affiliated with many hospitals, including Coldwater Canyon Hospital, Pasadena Community Hospital, Glendora Community Hospital, West Hollywood Hospital, and Kaiser Permanente. He is currently a member of the Los Angeles Mission College faculty in the Department of Chemical Dependency Studies. He is also a member of many California medical societies.*

*In addition to his private practice, Maisonet was the Co-Medical Director of the Minority AIDS Proj-*

### THE BLK INTERVIEW

*ect until March 1988. He has worked with the Shanti Foundation and the National Minority AIDS Council. He volunteered to work on the National Strategy Team for Surgeon General C. Everett Koop., and on the Advisory Board to the UCLA Gay Men's Study on condoms, anal intercourse, and viricidal lubricants.*

*Four months after he was born, he and his family moved from Puerto Rico to New York. Doted upon at four by a lady who ran a bordello in a neighboring apartment, and sexually molested by a babysitter at five, Maisonet had a varied early childhood. Surviving it, he says, gave him a strong spiritual foundation. Spanish was the primary language at home and he did not learn to speak English until he was six years old. Quite early, at age five, he decided to become a doctor.*

*He attended New York public schools and graduated from Columbia in 1968. During that period of student activism and political awareness, Maisonet participated in the take over of a building at Columbia by the Afro-American Student Society. He came out at the prestigious Albert Einstein Medical School in New York. Although he tried to remain politically active, he endured hostility even from fellow black students. "What they were saying is 'you have no right to exist as a black person who is gay,' and that is racism," Maisonet says. He graduated with honors in 1974.*

*Dr. Maisonet fulfilled his junior residency in New York, and his senior residency in Cincinnati in 1977.*

*What is the state of health care for black gay men and lesbians in the United States?*

Black people tend to have some of the worst health care (superseded only by native Americans in certain areas) and the reason is that the delivery of health care is uneven in this country. If you live in West Hollywood, you are pretty lucky. You have a community that supports you. If you live in South Central or in East Los Angeles, good luck.

*Why is that?*

Racism! I know you are going to call me a "sixties radical," but we have got to face the fact that racism, institutional racism, skews many statistics. Let me give some examples of how ridiculous the American system has become. A black child born in Cuba lives longer, and can expect to see his fifth birthday much more likely than a black child born within a fifty mile radius of the White House. The funny part is if you look at little countries like Anguila, Barbados, Curacao, and Jamaica, black children born there stand a better chance of seeing their fifth birthday than do black children born anywhere in the United States. I don't want to urge all gay black people to move to West Hollywood, but what has to happen is a more equitable health delivery system.

*Are you talking so-called socialized medicine?*

We're the only capitalist country that doesn't have it. Health care should be a right, not a privilege of the wealthy. Our for-profit medical system is interventionist rather than preventative. You treat the patient when they get sick instead of trying to maintain a well person.

*What can we do?*

We must realize that health care is political for black people because we are disproportionately dependent on funds allocated to health care voted upon by Congress. The current President of the United States was voted in by only 40 percent of the electorate. I'm sure a lot of people who didn't go to vote were black gay people. Gays are 10 percent of the population, and black gays are 10 percent of that. So there could have been 250,000 people working hard, registering voters, and going out demonstrating.

*What about Jesse Jackson?*

Jackson had openly gay people in the Rainbow Coalition. He mentioned the words, gay, lesbian, and AIDS during the Democratic Convention. I would like to have seen how it would have turned out if, since he did not get the presidential nomination, he would have become the new Democratic National Chair. Probably our agenda would have been accepted.

*And with Dukakis...?*

I didn't think Dukakis was any great shakes. In fact, I think George Bush would probably be a better President than Dukakis because he may be more open in what he says, he will probably carry out. I think we will probably



# Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



## The Second Annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and AIDS Institute February 17-20, 1989

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A Tribute to Sylvester

*Starring*

**Chaka Kahn,  
Jeannie Tracey  
& Kim Miller**

9:00 P.M.

Catch One Disco  
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### SATURDAY

#### *"An Evening at the Cotton Club"*

A Musical Salute to the  
Black Divas of the Blues

*Starring*

**Sweet Baby J'ai**

*With a Special Appearance by*

**Taurean Blaque**  
of *"Hill Street Blues"*

7:00 P.M.

The Grand Ballroom  
of the University Hilton

Tickets: \$50.00 ea.

### SUNDAY

**National Minority  
AIDS Council  
Benefit Luncheon**

*Honoring*

**Whoopi Goldberg**

*With Special Guest*

**Natalie Cole**

1:30 P.M.

The Grand Ballroom of the University  
Hilton

Tickets: \$35.00 ea.

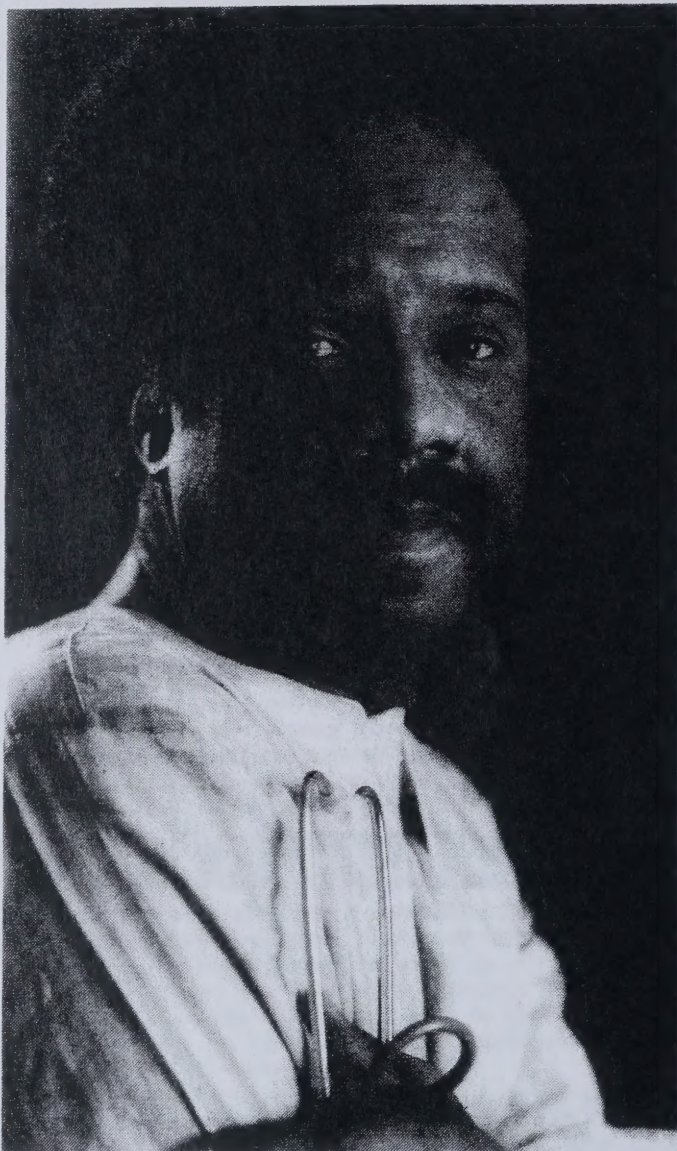
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German Maisonet. Photo by Bob Finney.

see the reappointment of Everett Koop as Surgeon General or the creation of an AIDS office which would be at a para-cabinet level.

*Would such an office be really useful or would it simply mean more salaries and more copying machines?*

It depends on the person who runs the office. If it is Koop, or someone of his stature and integrity, who knows health care issues, it will work.

*Who wouldn't you like to see in this position?*

There's a Dr. Lorimar here in Southern California. I would not like to see him or anybody like that.

*How could this national AIDS office be effective?*

First, there's no need to create a new bureaucracy in the AIDS industry. We have to make those organizations which are present now more sensitive to the needs of black people. For example, instead of pulling money away from county hospitals, they need more. That is where a disproportionate number of black people, especially black gay people get their treatment. There are addicts who are not going to go to a testing center no

matter what you do. We may need to send vans to go out and do testing for people who cannot get out of their neighborhood or feel trapped in their neighborhood.

*What are agencies and authorities not doing that you would like to see them do?*

There must be more cultural consideration in the delivery of health services. Many of the strategies for getting information about AIDS out to white gay men are not as functional in the black and Latino communities.

*Many agencies have put out pamphlets, used billboards, and made videos. Does any of that stuff work?*

I do not think it is working for black gay men. I think the people who are going to have to deliver the message are going to have to look like the people whom they want the message to be accepted by.

*Are you suggesting that someone like Mike Tyson do safe sex commercials?*

A well-known black heterosexual name would be a plus for advertizing to heterosexuals. For gay men, it might possibly work. Blacks have got to educate blacks.

*Well, we've got the Minority AIDS Project Los Angeles and the National Minority AIDS Council.*

I was a member of the Board of Directors and Co-Medical Director of the Minority AIDS Project until March of '88.

*What happened?*

I'd rather not go into that.

*Is the project headed in the right direction?*

It needs more funding.

*Some of the agencies have been criticized for supposedly becoming too concerned with conferences, writing articles, and being on TV as opposed to the grassroots delivery of services to people who are infected.*

I think minority agencies in general are going to have to confront the fact that in Los Angeles County, at least 90 percent of all cases of AIDS in the black community and are gay men. They need to be made accountable for the money they receive. I think we need somebody at the state and local level, and a national representative to say if you want money for health care, then you deliver health care. I mean that if they can't cover gay men, and that's 90 percent of the cases, they should give 90 percent of the money back. Also, many minority organizations need technical advice on how to cope with change. The organization may be successful at a grassroots level, then they get drowned in money and are expected to grow quickly, and they can't handle it.

*Do you have a particular organization in mind when you say this?*

I think all agencies are like that, not just the minority ones. But I remember when APLA was first developing. It went from a hotline to a multi-million dollar non-profit agency by hiring staff, developing policies for any situation, getting insurance, and keeping excellent records for auditing and tax purposes. Maybe we need to develop a brain trust or data bank to assist agencies in managing change.

*Are some agencies in "competition" with one another?*

No one agency should think that it is going to be able to do it alone. And no single agency whether it's black, Latino, or Asian should decide that because another agency is developing along different lines that there is a lack of consensus. I don't know why people get all upset and bent out of shape. Eventually there will have to be agencies that specialize. For example, the IV drug users and prostitutes can go into drug and alcohol recovery



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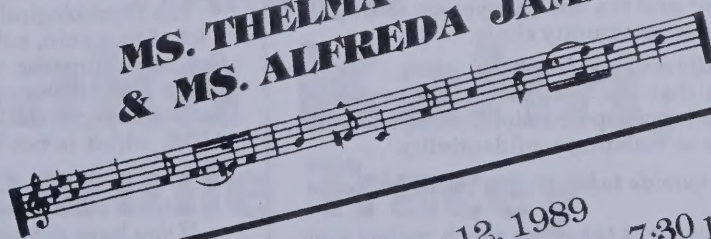
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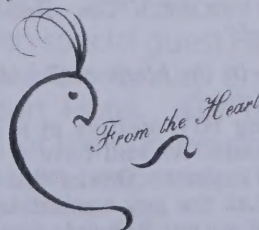
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programs and perinatal clinics that already exist.

*So in the minority community, is it reasonable to expect one agency...*

...minority agencies undertake all of it at the same time.

*Do you think that's reasonable?*

Absolutely not.

*In the white gay community there are a number of AIDS agencies each with a slightly different different focus from the next.*

Yes. APLA has the Necessities of Life program whose mission is to collect food. The AFA is the one that helps distribute funds. APLA was the one that did the case management and the study program.

*What other things might be done if there were more funding?*

With more funding, there could be street outreach to deliver health care at more alternative sites. Everyone is worried about the heterosexuals with AIDS in the black community. Well, people have to remember that gay people use facilities in the general community. Gay women get pregnant and have babies. Gay men can father babies.

*Gay babies?*

Yes, gay people can have children. Black gay people live in black communities, and Latino gays live in Latino communities, and the health care of every person of color in their communities is bound up together.

*Should everyone take the test for AIDS? And is it really confidential? What if you just practice safe sex with everyone, do you really need to know if you are HIV positive?*

What's necessary is that everyone change their behavior to low risk activities. I don't think everyone needs to take the test, but you need to know if you have the virus. You need to know so that you can plan your life and change your sexual behavior. The county facilities and some that are not county facilities are anonymous. One place is The Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, although it was closed for 48 hours due to a lack of insurance. We need more testing places in Watts and East Los Angeles, but there is a drawback to that. Everybody knows each other and it's not anonymous sitting in the waiting room of your community clinic.

*So then the test really isn't confidential?*

The bottom line is that the test results are confidential because there is a lot of repercussion for anyone who would even come close to violating confidentiality.

*What about people outside taking down people's license plate numbers?*

I don't buy that because it takes too much money and too much of somebody's time. People should not be concerned or overly paranoid. Further, I recommend that a person should get pre-test counseling. I have had patients come into my office who wanted to be tested, and after speaking to them for 15 minutes, I could advise them that they weren't ready. Have you changed your behavior I would ask? Are you using condoms? "Well, kind of." Either you do, or you don't. The virus is not impressed with, "Well, kind of."

*Is there a real difference in the black and white gay communities in terms of statistics?*

Black gay men are testing HIV positive at a higher rate than their white gay peers. We still have a higher rate of sexually transmitted diseases. One of the things you have to remember is that the gay community is a drug afflicted community and my gut feeling is that there

are more drugs in the black community in general.

*Is there anything we can do?*

One of the most important things the black community must do is raise its level of self-esteem, especially gay black men. I think a lot of unsafe sex is desperate sex. Now we must care about ourselves and each other. We have to respect our partners and be considerate, and that means keeping safety in mind at all times. Safety must become a part of daily routine.

*That sounds like a substantive-long term change in lifestyle.*

Yes, but I remember we had a Civil Rights Movement, which changed the opinion black people had of themselves and we forget that some of the spearheads for that movement were very courageous black men and women who could not come out of the closet at that time. We forget that the mentor of the late sixties of black and white youth was a black gay man and a pivotal play was written by black lesbian. I mean Bayard Rustin, Lorraine Hansberry, and James Baldwin. We also have to remember the good things about ourselves.

*What advice do you have for those who are HIV positive or who have an active case of AIDS?*

Even if you are healthy, there is still the reaction, "Oh my God, I am going to die." There is the tendency to feel isolated, even though part of a support network. It is not easy to talk about AIDS, but have someone to talk to.

*What about their special medical needs?*

That is a real problem, because what I am starting to find is something I had suspected for a long time. Physicians in general do not wish to take care of or provide primary care for people with AIDS. I think the numbers are even smaller for black and Latino medical professionals. In the black community, and in the Latino as well as others, there is still the concept that AIDS is a gay disease. With the assumption that it is a white gay disease because these communities do not want to acknowledge that there are significant numbers of gays in their communities. This virus does not care who you are.

*Do you have anything to say to people who know someone who is sick? Should they get special counseling?*

The psychological aspect of AIDS is dramatic. There is a lot of raw pain, suffering, and crying in the community. Get counseling for yourself and loved ones around you. There are still many fears in the community, such as a person can get AIDS by living with a person who has AIDS, which is not true. AIDS is not casually transmitted.

*Is there a final comment you want to make?*

If you have not established a relationship with a physician, not only have any AIDS related issues been ignored, but so has your general health. If you have waited for a long time before seeing a doctor, one of the reasons might be that you don't have the money. If you were not poor before you had AIDS, you will be poor after you get it. Your health is priceless.

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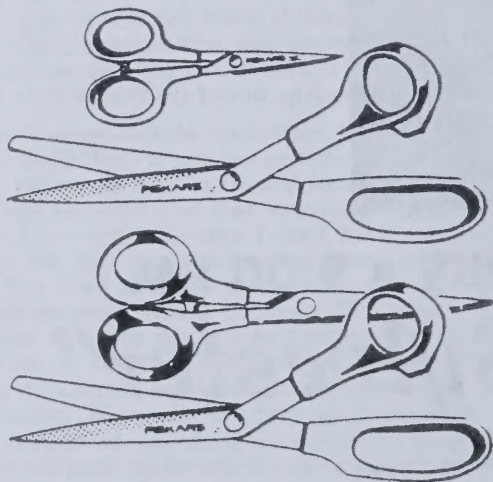


# Celebrity Foreskin

*Who's circumcised and who's not among black newsmakers*

**By Jarvis D. Moore**

Circumcision is a big issue with gay men, since the penises of other men, as well as their own, play such an important role in their sexual lives and fantasies. For many years in the gay world, the "uncut" man was often made to feel unwanted in sexual relationships. Today, however, "uncut" is "in" with many gays. Why? Probably because "uncut" is a novelty in a generally "cut" society. In the post-World War II years, circumcision was so universal in most areas, that many boys reported they had never seen a foreskin during their youth. The situation is



changing rapidly. Today the National Center for Health Statistics reports only 60 percent of newborn boys nationally are circumcised, with the percentage dropping.

Thirteen years ago, Chuck Thompson began to research, obtain, and compile the feelings, experiences, and status of men regarding circumcision. In particular, he became intensely interested in the status of celebrities. Thompson gets information for his now lifelong study in several ways. He places ads in publications inviting people to share their experiences. He keeps a sharp eye open for information in biographies and other publications. He has "researchers" who have entered professional locker rooms and exclusive gyms to make observations. Plus he has contacts who have worked at movie studios in wardrobe. Some write-in respondents had known a celebrity in high school. Others claim to have had sexual relationships with a celebrity.

Thompson believes his is the most accurate list of several available ones, and he constantly updates it as new facts emerge, preferably supplied by the subject himself. For example, the list was used on a *Phil Donahue Show*, and Donahue claimed he was incorrectly listed.

Thompson, who is circumcised, claims his interest in

circumcision started on the first day of kindergarten, when he discovered at the urinal that he was "different" from the two boys on either side of him. From that day on, he developed an insatiable curiosity as to whether every male he met was "cut" or "uncut."

Thompson says the emotional trauma of being "different" can last for years and fundamentally effects a man's outlook on life. He used stalls in the restroom up through high school, and never permitted anyone to see him nude. His project has served as a forum where men have been able to share their experiences and air their frustrations:

*"In the high school locker room, I got my share of derisive remarks and jests, like 'hey elephant trunk,' and 'skum skin,' etc. It was embarrassing. The coach suggested that it might be the best thing for me to be circumcised for comfort and cleanliness."*

*"In elementary school I was very aware of being different, and in junior high school I was called 'queer,' and felt that only normal, handsome, smart, straight guys were circumcised...In high school, five guys came up to me in gym and asked when I was going to get the 'growth and disease' removed from my cock.... As an adult, I took a guy home and after undressing, he told me that he 'couldn't have sex with that'."*

*"I attended a school where almost all the boys were cut. Neither my parents nor anyone else bothered to explain to me why I was different. This was a source of deep concern and anxiety for me, and I went to almost any length to avoid being seen in the nude. When I reached 22, I had myself circumcised...."*

*"I felt as if I was the only person in the world who was like this and was very shy about it. I participated in lots of sports but hated getting undressed...I am very well-built, but I couldn't feel normal. When I was 16 years old, I met a doctor while hitch-hiking to the beach. He seduced me and eventually circumcised me."*

A growing number of "cut" men are indignant that they were circumcised as babies, and have a feeling they have missed out on one of life's pleasures. Examples:

*"I regret the loss of my foreskin. It was something of mine that was taken from me without my approval. I now prefer sex with partners who are uncut and wish that there was some way that my foreskin could be surgically restored. I have become an rabid voyeur, trying to see as many uncuts as I can."*

*"I am fascinated by foreskin, as it is so attractive. I enjoy seeing it and still wish I had my own. It's rude, but I tend to stare when it's available to view. I do often look at my perfect clip-job and wonder how much was removed, and how wonderful it would be to watch and feel*



*the head appear and disappear into its own skin, rather than into my hand. Something's missing."*

As they become adults, "uncut" boys find their status to be a plus. Some men seek them out as sex partners. One need merely check out the personals ads in gay publications to note how an "uncut" status is often featured.

Thompson's research project continues. So far his project has yielded over 1600 names of men involved in movies, TV, sports, music, government, and other "celebrity" occupations. The list of black men that follows was culled from Thompson's list and was augmented with other research.

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#### UNCIRCUMCISED

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Vida Blue, *Baseball player*  
Bill Cosby, *Comedian*  
Chris Dickerson, *1975 Mr. Olympia*  
Rosey Grier, *Football player, Artist*  
Richie Havens, *Singer*  
Jimi Hendrix, *Singer*  
Jesse Jackson, *Politician*  
Earvin "Magic" Johnson, *Basketball player*  
Martin Luther King, Jr., *Civil rights leader*  
Joe Louis, *Boxer*  
Johnny Mathis, *Singer*  
Greg Morris, *Actor*  
Eddie Murphy, *Comedian*  
Tony Pearson, *1977 Mr. America*  
Pele, *Soccer player*  
Charlie Pride, *Singer*  
Little Richard, *Singer*  
Mr. T, *Actor*  
Flip Wilson, *Comedian*

---

#### CIRCUMCISED

---

Muhammad Ali, *Boxer*  
Idi Amin, *Politician*  
Arthur Ashe, *Tennis player*  
Jim Brown, *Actor*  
Rod Carew, *Baseball player*  
Spencer Christian, *TV weatherman*  
Sammy Davis, *Entertainer*  
Kareem Abdul Jabbar, *Basketball player*  
Jackie Jackson, *Singer*  
Jermaine Jackson, *Singer*  
Marlon Jackson, *Singer*  
Michael Jackson, *Singer*  
Randy Jackson, *Singer*  
Tito Jackson, *Singer*  
Sugar Ray Leonard, *Boxer*  
Carl Lewis, *Athlete*  
Roger Mosley, *Actor*  
Yannick Noan, *Tennis player*  
Ken Norton, *Boxer*  
Brock Peters, *Actor*  
Ahmad Rashad, *Football player*  
O.J. Simpson, *Football player*  
Marc Singer, *Actor*  
Raymond St. Jacques, *Actor*  
Billy Dee Williams, *Actor*  
Paul Winfield, *Actor*

*Thompson would like to hear from anyone who can supply additional material for his continuing survey. You can obtain his complete list and samples of his newsletter by sending \$6 to Box 691024, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



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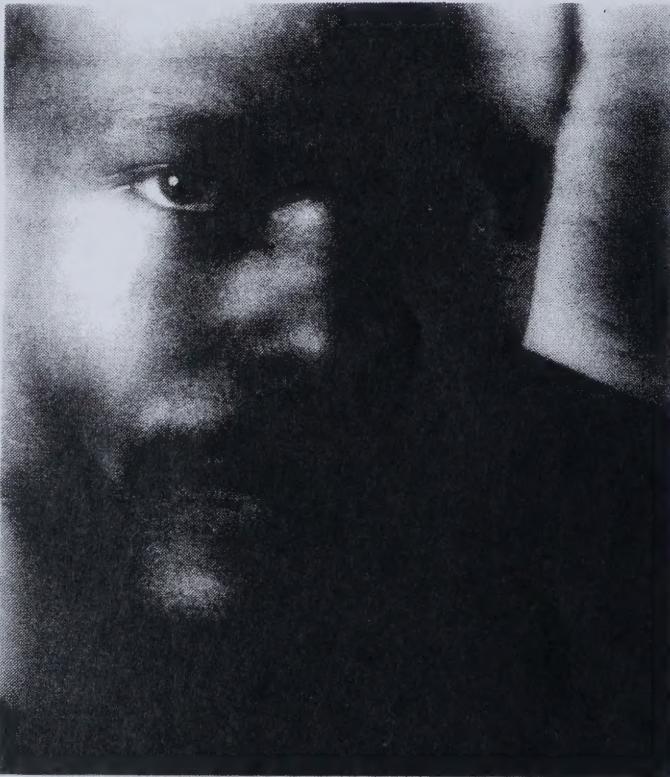




# Joe Beam

*Death claims author of In the Life;  
second volume to be published posthumously*

**Compiled by Alan Bell**



Joe Beam. Photo by Sharon Farmer.

Celebrated author Joseph Fairchild Beam, the editor of *In the Life*, died of heart failure due to AIDS at his Philadelphia home December 27, 1988, just three days before his 34th birthday. Beam had been depressed for a number of months over apparent career setbacks and, according to his family, had been ill for the last year with respiratory and stomach ailments.

Although the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office listed the cause of death as AIDS-related, a conclusive determination was impossible, according to a spokesman who wished to remain anonymous, because Beam had been dead for a week before he was found, and the body had begun to decompose. The Medical Examiner's Office was able to confirm, however, that Beam was HIV positive.

There had been wide-spread speculation that Beam's death was drug-related or that he had committed suicide, but both of these possibilities were ruled out by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Beam is known primarily for the collection of writing and artwork by black men he began assembling in 1985. It was published 18 months later under the title, *In the Life*.

Although a number of works had already been published by and about black lesbians, Beam's was the first modern anthology ever to focus on the experiences of black gay men.

In the book's introduction, he wrote, "The bottom line is this: We are black men who are proud and gay. What we offer is our lives, our loves, our visions....We are coming home with our heads held up high."

After the book's publication, Beam gave lectures and appeared at bookstores across the country, developing a reputation as an articulate and sensitive voice for the black gay community.

"For the first time in that book, black gay men got to tell about their lives and experiences in their own words. Joe was a pioneer," said James Roberts, a contributor who also worked with Beam on other projects.

"His book was a major contribution not only to the black gay community, but to the black community at large, which has often denied the existence of gays within it," said the Rev. Darlene Garner, a founding board member of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays.

Beam was the first editor of *Black/Out*, the national black gay and lesbian literary magazine, and served for three years on the board of directors of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. He also had worked as a columnist for *Au Courant*, and as a contributing editor for the magazine, *Blacklight*. His work has been published in *The Advocate*, *Gay Community News*, *Philadelphia Gay News*, *New York Native*, *Blackheart* and *Windy City Times*, as well as *Painted Bride Quarterly*.

"He was a national figure in the gay and lesbian world," said Ed Hermance, a friend and owner of Giovanni's Room, a Philadelphia bookstore.

"Joe was such a positive role model for black gay men and women alike," said Rev. Renee McCoy, executive director of NCBLG. "He had a gentle, frank spirit and was an inspiration to gays and lesbians at all levels, from all walks of life."

Essex Hemphill, a member of NCBLG and a contributor to *In the Life*, also spoke of the inspiration that Beam had provided: "The work that Joe did in the community as a whole—gay and lesbian, black and white—enriched the community in ways that have yet to manifest themselves. His life was a light for many of us. His book opened up an important dialogue among black gay men, and made us aware of the number of us out here."

Among his most memorable pieces at the Philadelphia Gay News was an extensive interview several years ago with the late civil rights leader Bayard Rustin. "Joe did excellent work—well-written and well-thought out," said managing editor Tommi Avicoli said. "...He was a very articulate voice speaking about the experience of being black and gay. A lot of people were moved by him."

Six feet tall, sturdy and mustachioed, with penetrating



eyes and a distinct assuredness, Beam had been a visible leader in the black gay community since the early 1980s. He had long been proud of being black. In his mid- to late 20s, he also made it clear that he was proud of being gay.

Though a leading advocate for causes important to gay blacks, Beam was not without personal struggles over the issues. He grew angry at injustice. To those who knew him well, he seemed at times tormented by society's slowness in accepting—even recognizing—gay blacks.

It was that frustration which triggered his landmark book. In 1984, he placed an advertisement in the *Philadelphia Gay News*, soliciting black gay writers with the words, "Visibility is survival." A collection of essays, poems, interviews and short stories, *In the Life* includes works by several recognized authors, but was primarily a volume by those largely unknown.

Beam poured himself into editing their manuscripts. In the book, he described his role: "Not only was I an editor, but often was a confidant and friend to the brothers who submitted their work. I listened to their stories of failed loves, tales of looking for employment...Time after time, their letters and phone calls catapulted me past moments of lethargy and depression. We supported each other."

It was on a personal level that many remembered Beam, describing him as a man who combined thoughtfulness with a lively spirit.

"What stands out was his openness and willingness to be present with people and give whatever he could, even at personal sacrifice," said Garner. Beam, who considered himself spiritual but not religious, used to attend her services at Metropolitan Community Church in Philadel-

phia as a gesture of support, Garner said.

Reared in West Philadelphia, the son of a bank guard and a school counselor, Beam attended St. Joseph School for Boys in Clayton, Delaware, and Malvern Preparatory School before graduating in 1972 from St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia. He earned a bachelor's degree from Franklin College of Indiana in 1976. Then he returned to Philadelphia to write.

Beam also worked in sales at several bookstores and as a waiter at several restaurants.

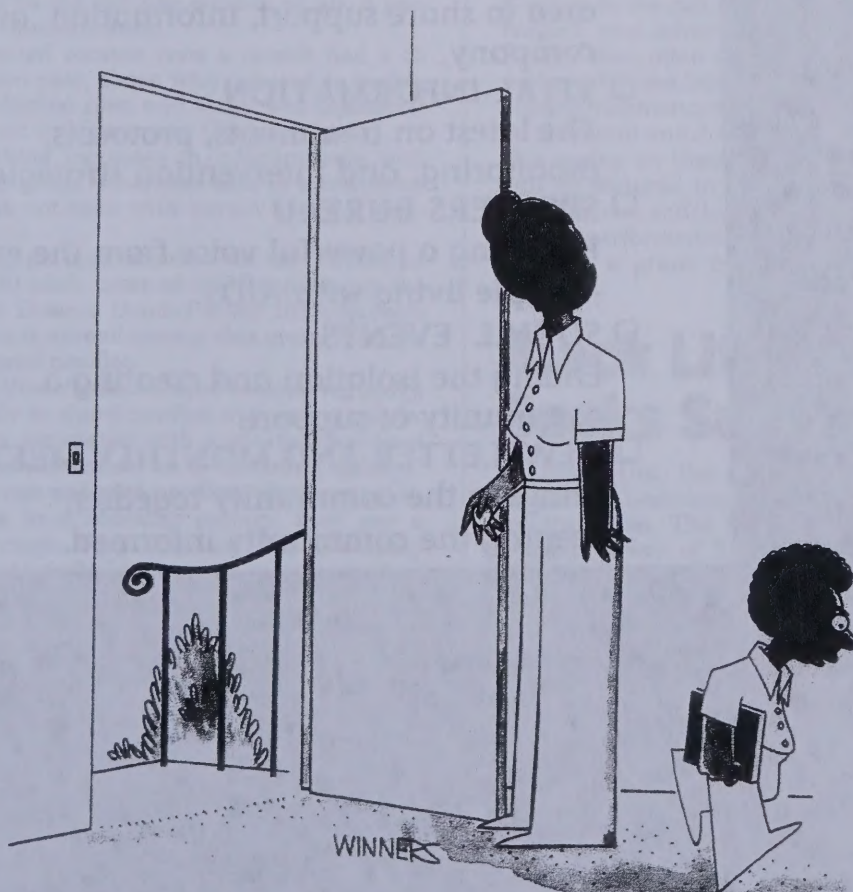
At the time of his death, Beam was compiling material for a second collection, *Brother to Brother*. According to his publisher, Sasha Alyson, "Joe already had made a great deal of progress on that book, and his parents were highly supportive of what he was doing. We still expect to publish it." "Brother to Brother" was the title of an essay Beam wrote for the first anthology, a piece he considered one of his best works.

Beam was a member of the Black Writers Guild and won several awards for his efforts.

Surviving are his parents, Dorothy and Sun F. Beam; a foster sister, Addie Lee; and a foster brother, Charles Saunders.

A Joseph Beam Memorial Scholarship Fund for creative writing has been established at Temple University. Contributions may be made in care of Marie Inyang, Esq., PSFS Building, 12 S. 12th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

*Substantial portions of this article were written by Donna St. George for the Philadelphia Inquirer, and appeared there first.*



"The new kid is straight."



# BEING ALIVE

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Connecting people with others in their local area to share support, information, and good company.
- ☐ **VITAL INFORMATION**  
The latest on treatments, protocols, monitoring, and intervention strategies.
- ☐ **SPEAKERS BUREAU**  
Providing a powerful voice from the experts - people living with AIDS.
- ☐ **SOCIAL EVENTS**  
Ending the isolation and creating a community of support.
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# Community News

## Research Says Cokers See High AIDS Risk

CHICAGO (AP)—Drug abusers who inject cocaine are more likely to catch AIDS infections from the practice than those who shoot heroin, researchers found in a study of 633 addicts in San Francisco.

Injection of cocaine promotes more sharing of hypodermic needles than heroin injection because cocaine's briefer euphoria requires more doses—up to 10 a day, the researchers said.

"The cocaine association is news. This is the first time it's ever been reported," said Dr. Richard E. Chaisson, formerly of the University of California at San Francisco and now of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Chaisson and fellow researchers studied 633 heroin addicts enrolled in drug treatment programs in San Francisco from May 1986 to July 1987. About 60 percent of the addicts also injected cocaine.

Seventy-seven of the addicts in the study, or 12 percent, were HIV+, the researchers reported in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Among addicts who did not use cocaine at all, 8 percent were infected, Chaisson said.

Addicts who injected cocaine once a month had a 15 percent HIV infection rate, those who injected it weekly had a 21 percent infection rate, and those who injected it daily had a 28 percent infection rate, Chaisson said.

"There were striking increases in infection rate with increasing use of the drug," Chaisson said in a telephone interview. "That was not seen with heroin use in a similar pattern."

Intravenous drug abusers account for 20 percent of the more than 83,000 adult cases of AIDS reported to the national Centers for Disease Control since 1979. Experts believe HIV infection is spread among this group through blood residue on shared needles.

The study found that if addicts used cocaine regularly, they were more likely to share needles with many people. Increased usage was associated with a greater likelihood the addict had injected cocaine at a "shooting gallery," where people buy drugs and rent needles, Chaisson said.

"If someone goes to a shooting gallery, they pay a dollar and get a syringe. They have no idea how many people have used that needle," he said.

Chaisson said the government estimates that 900,000 people in this country abuse drugs by injecting them. He said he believes anywhere from 100,000 to 500,000 people inject cocaine, less than 10 percent of all people using the drug.

"Heroin is not the only problem or even the major problem," Chaisson said. "Cocaine has emerged as a more serious problem than heroin, in part because methadone is available to control heroine abuse, but nothing is available to control cocaine."

Chaisson said 95 percent of the subjects were able to reduce their heroin use with methadone, a drug substitute used in treatment programs to reduce the craving for heroin.

## Black Gay Performance Art Hits Los Angeles

By Chi Hughes

Los Angeles opened its doors to two of the East Coast's premiere performance artists, Essex Hemphill and Weyson Jones, with a three-day run at LACE entitled "Earth-life: A Theatre Concert." The evening was a mixture of prose, performance, music and photography.

Hemphill's poetry, heavily steeped in black gay male erotica and inner city lifestyles, provided social commentary on sex, poverty, oppression, love, violence, drag queens, AIDS, family and sensuality.

Avant garde musical accompaniment composed by Weyson Jones was performed on bass guitar, synthesizer and rhythm box. The evening also included slides from photos taken by Washington, D.C. photographer Sharon Farmer.

The show, which consisted of 25 individual works, included material on the brutal assault of a black woman in Washington, D.C. (Hemphill and Jones's hometown); "Brass Rail," a poem on the infamous gay bar in Washington, D.C.; and "Mi Padre," performed in Spanish and English in the call and response tradition, about a child's respect and admiration for "My Father." "Spirits" by Birago Diop, often sung by Sweet Honey in the Rock, was delivered in the latter segment of the concert in tribute to black/African ancestry.

Hemphill and Jones will release their first 45 rpm disc this spring on their Mega Watts label. In addition, they will be featured in an upcoming documentary on Langston Hughes entitled, *Looking for Langston*.

The performance at LACE was partially made possible through a grant from the National Performance Network.

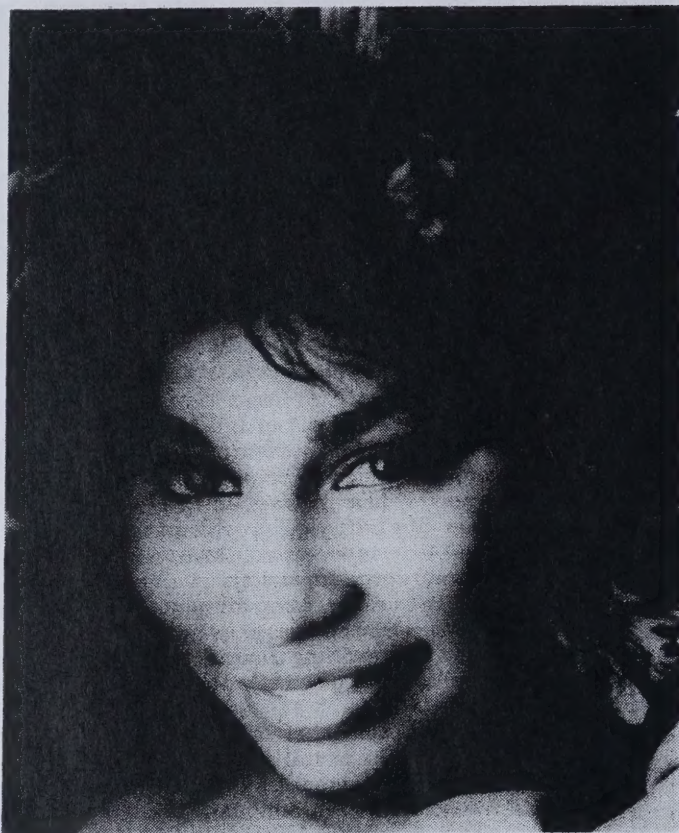
## Black Literary Journal Seeks Submissions

*Black/Out*, the publication of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, is seeking articles for its spring issue. The theme of the issue, to be edited by Angela Bowen of Boston, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan of Los Angeles and Colin Robinson of New York, will be "We Are Family."

Submissions are welcome on topics such as: role models in the black gay and lesbian community, relationships with our families of origin, relationships between black lesbians and gay men, black gay fathers and lesbian mothers. Submissions may be articles, short stories, journal entries, line drawings or poetry.

The deadline for submissions, which should be typed, doubled-spaced, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, is February 15, 1989. Submissions should be sent to Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, Box 4811, Culver City, CA 90231. All other correspondence should be directed to Angela Bowen, *Black/Out*, Box 426, Cambridge MA 02139.





**Chaka Kahn.** Photo by Matthew Rolston.



**Taurean Blaque**

## Gay Conference in Los Angeles Only Weeks Away

*By Alan Smithee*

Activity hastens for the planning committee of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference as the confab enters the final weeks of preparation. Over 1000 people are expected to attend the conference which will be held February 17-20, 1989 at the University Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley is scheduled to give the opening address Saturday morning.

The theme of the conference, which is being sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, is "Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing for the 21st Century."

Scheduled events include workshops, seminars, luncheons, a banquet, a concert and a dance. Allied activities include an all-day workshop on AIDS in the black gay community called the "AIDS Institute"; a strategy session for representatives of local and national black gay and lesbian organizations called the "Leadership Roundtable"; and a benefit luncheon for the National Minority AIDS Council.

Among the workshops to be offered are "How to Get 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Status," "Women Spirituality," "How to Start a Business," "Grant Writing," "How to Do Grassroots Organizing," "Careers and the Closet," "How to Do Political Lobbying," "Depression and How to Cope," "How to Develop a Relationship," "How do Do Fundraising," "How to Look for a Job" and "Lesbian Relationships." More are scheduled.

Chaka Kahn, Jeannie Tracey and Kim Miller will appear at Catch One Friday night in "You Made Us Feel Mighty Real," a program billed as a tribute to the late

Sylvester.

Taurean Blaque and J'ai will appear at a banquet and dance Saturday night to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the University Hilton. J'ai will perform in a revue called "An Evening at the Cotton Club," a musical tribute to the black divas of the blues.

Whoopi Goldberg and Natalie Cole will appear at Sunday's benefit luncheon for the National Minority AIDS Council, as will Council Co-Chairs California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters and Rev. Carl Bean.

Rev. Renee McCoy will lead Sunday morning worship at the Unity Fellowship Church.

Registration for the conference is \$70. Registration for the conference and the AIDS Institute is \$100. Tickets to the National Minority AIDS Council Luncheon are \$25 for registrants and \$35 for non-registrants. Conference registration includes Friday evening entertainment, the Saturday evening banquet and all workshop sessions.

The conference planning committee has devised a work exchange program allowing people to volunteer their time during the conference in lieu of paying the registration fee. Conference planning committee meetings are held Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Minority AIDS Project, 5149 West Jefferson, Los Angeles.

The conference planning committee has also created two special funds, a scholarship fund and a people with AIDS fund. This money is set aside to sponsor people with special needs and PWAs who otherwise would be unable to attend the conference. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 213-667-2549 or write, BGLLF, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027.



# Politico Nate Holden Puts Black Gay Kids on Hold

By Cornell Makonnen

Efforts to persuade Councilman Nate Holden (L.A. 10th Dist.) to approve a loan from a city agency for two group homes for gay youths have apparently failed. Teresa DeCrescenzo, Executive Director and founder of Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services has indicated that she will attempt to obtain funding elsewhere, since the Community Redevelopment Agency will not lend her the money necessary to maintain the homes without Holden's approval.

Founded in 1984, GLASS owns two houses in South Central Los Angeles for displaced lesbian and gay minors. Eight of the current young residents are black, four are Hispanic and one is white. Most were referred by the County Social Services Department or other non-profit agencies. Several were previously homeless or facing eviction by anti-gay or AIDS-panicked parents.

Necessary repairs to the two housing facilities were undertaken by DeCrescenzo on the understanding that the CRA would loan GLASS \$245,000 to meet renovation costs. The CRA often makes such loans on easy terms to entities trying to upgrade services in minority communities. However, councilmembers must approve projects in their districts before the CRA will fund them.

Councilman Mike Woo discussed the project with Holden last October, when Holden is said to have agreed to transmit his approval to the CRA. But later, alleges DeCrescenzo, he declined to write the promised letter of support.

Faced with mounting bills, DeCrescenzo and her staff urgently sought to meet with Holden. While promising to inspect the two facilities personally in the near future,

Holden informed GLASS that he had several concerns. He was assured that although GLASS accepts HIV-positive juveniles, neither facility was or would become an AIDS hospice, an apparent concern of the Councilman's. Although DeCrescenzo is white, more than half of GLASS's staff are persons of color, and the input of minorities, including Holden's staff members, had been solicited prior to and during GLASS's development, according to DeCrescenzo.

Efforts by Woo, State Senator Diane Watson, West Hollywood Councilman Steve Schulte and Minority AIDS Project head Rev. Carl Bean all failed to persuade the Councilman to sign off. Holden is said to have voiced concerns about the size of salaries for DeCrescenzo and others, and the inability of GLASS to provide adequate collateral for the loan. (CRA has expressed no such reservations.)

But his overriding opposition apparently rests upon promises he is alleged to have made to South Central residents that he would oppose establishment of new group homes. However, DeCrescenzo points out that the GLASS homes are not new, and have maintained good relations with their neighbors.

DeCrescenzo, a former board president of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, has said that she will pursue federal funding. Meanwhile, one of GLASS's two houses faces foreclosure proceedings and the state has imposed fines totaling \$2000 for failure to make required repairs.

For more information or to make a donation, call GLASS at 213-653-3496.

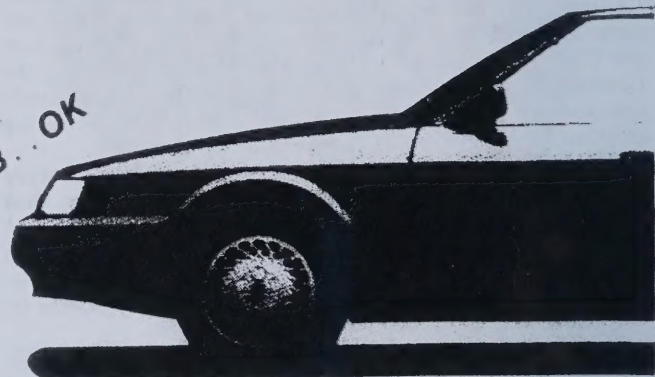


*"The bad news is that the house is a mess, but the good news is that all of us guys decided over the weekend that we were gay and I'm about to slam the door in your face."*



# TIRED OF BEING TURNED DOWN?

BAD CREDIT...OK  
NO CREDIT...OK  
BANKRUPTCY...OK  
NO CO-SIGNER...OK  
CREDIT PROBLEMS...OK  
CHARGE OFFS...OK  
NEW ON THE JOB...OK

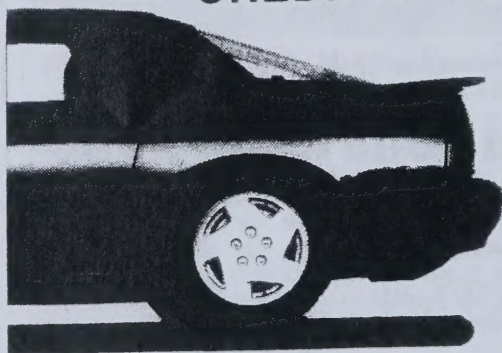


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## Black Student Group Slates Free Film Series

The Black Student Assembly at the University of Southern California in association with the USC School of Cinema-Television and the USC African-American Film Association is sponsoring a film series, "African-American Independent Film Retrospective," January 28 through February 26, 1989. All screenings are free and open to the public.

January 28, Bovard Auditorium: 7 p.m., *Wattstax*.

February 3, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *Uptight*; 7:30 p.m., *I Have a Dream*; 7:45 p.m., *Black Panther*; 8 p.m., *Malcolm X*.

February 4, Bovard Auditorium: 5 p.m., *Mahogany*; 7 p.m., *Lady Sings the Blues*.

February 5, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *Happy Birthday, Dr. King*; 6:30 p.m., *Coming to America*.

February 10, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *The Learning Tree*; 8 p.m., *Sounder*.

February 11, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *Purple Rain*; 7:30 p.m., *The Wiz*.

February 12, Norris Cinema Theatre: 6 p.m., *Brazil: The Vanishing Negro*; 6:30 p.m., *Black Orpheus*.

February 16, Lucas Instructional Building: 6 p.m., *Hallelujah*; 7:45 p.m., *The Emperor Jones*; 9 p.m., *Imitation of Life*.

February 18, Norris Cinema Theatre: 6 p.m., *The Dutchman*; 7 p.m., *The Cool World*; 8:30 p.m., *The Education of Sonny Carson*.

February 19, Norris Cinema Theatre: 6 p.m., *Oscar Micheaux, Film Pioneer*; 6:30 p.m., *Body and Soul*; 7:45 p.m., *Scar of Shame*; 9:15 p.m., *Black Shadows on a Silver Screen*.

February 24, Bovard Auditorium: 5 p.m., *The Devil is a Condition*; 5:30 p.m., *The Torture of Mothers*; 6:30 p.m., *Illusions*; 7 p.m., *Color*.

February 25, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *Rainbow Black*; 6:30 p.m., *A Different Image*; 7:30 p.m., *Claudine*.

February 26, Norris Cinema Theatre: 5 p.m., *The Answer*; 5:30 p.m., *Joe's Bed-Stuy Barber Shop*; 6:30 p.m., *Sarah*; 7 p.m., *She's Gotta Have It*; 8:30 p.m., *School Daze*.

For directions to the three theaters where the screenings are being held, or for any other information, call the University of Southern California at 213-743-8303.

## Leadership Roundtable Scheduled to Convene

Angela Bowen, Co-Chair of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, will lead a discussion among representatives of black lesbian and gay organizations February 20, 1989. The purpose of the meeting, which will be participatory rather than a panel discussion, will be to chart a course for the next decade and beyond.

All black gay and lesbian organizations are invited to send a representative, or to send written suggestions offering their organization's vision and goals for a national black gay and lesbian agenda. In addition, the discussion will include practical methods for goal accomplishment, and will consider both national and local perspectives.

For more information, contact Phill Wilson at 213-667-2549.

## List January CDC Stats on U.S. AIDS Cases

ATLANTA (AP)—Here are the latest statistics on acquired immune deficiency syndrome in the United States, through January 23, as reported by the national Centers for Disease Control. These statistics are through January 23 and have been rounded to the nearest whole percent. Cumulative totals are for AIDS cases reported since June 1981, and include 75 cases subsequently found to have occurred prior to that date.

### Number of Cases

Total cases reported since June 1981: 84,503.

Cases, year to date: 1,740.

Total deaths: 48,222, or 57 percent of all cases.

### Transmission Categories

Homosexual or bisexual males: 51,279, or 61 percent.

Intravenous drug abusers: 16,597, or 20 percent.

Homosexual male and drug abusers: 5,973, or 7 percent.

Heterosexual cases: 3,669, or 4 percent.

Transfusion or blood cases: 2,251, or 3 percent.

Hemophilia patients: 873, or 1 percent.

Children of parents with AIDS or at risk: 1,065, or 1 percent.

Undetermined transmission cause: 2,796, or 3 percent.

### Race

Cases among whites: 48,541, or 57 percent.

Cases among blacks: 22,472, or 27 percent.

Cases among Hispanics: 12,710, or 15 percent.

Cases among Asians or Pacific Islanders: 499, or 1 percent.

Cases among American Indians or Alaskan natives: 90, or 0 percent.

### Age

Childhood cases (under age 13): 1,375, or 2 percent.



"And did the seven dwarfs practice safe sex with each other when Snow White was gone?"



# List Complete Conference AIDS Institute Schedule

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference will open with the AIDS Institute February 17, 1989 at the University Hilton. The all-day session is specifically designed to provide information to individuals providing AIDS services and is also open to people wanting more information on the numerous facets of AIDS work from funding to support groups.

The following is the complete AIDS Institute schedule.

## **Commencement Plenary, 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.**

Introductions: Phill Wilson

Keynote Speaker: Warren Hewett, Office of Minority Health

## **Session One, 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.**

Creating Relationships with Foundations (double session): Midge Taylor, Tim Offutt, Liberty Hill, Michele Prichard

Developing and Managing a Volunteer Program: Bobby Smith

Developing Support Groups: Cleante Stain

Managing Hospices: Chi Hughes

Managing Management Program for Black Clients: To be announced

## **Session Two, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

Creating Relationships with Foundations (continued)

Starting an AIDS Program: Reggie Williams, U.S. Conference of Mayors

Grant Writing: Al Cunningham

Negotiating and Working with Federal Funders (question and answer): Gil Gerald

Developing Educational Strategies for Black Gay Men: George Bellinger, Jr., Craig Harris, Curtis Washington, Phill Wilson

## **Luncheon, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Introductions: To be announced

Speaker: Dr. Benny Primm

## **Session Three, 2:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.**

General Administration of an AIDS Program for Blacks: Tim Offutt, Veneita Porter

Working with/in the Church: Rev. Rene McCoy, Rev. Carl Bean

AIDS Services for Addicted PWAs: Dr. Herman Maisonet

Education Strategies for Black Women: Colevia Carter

Principles of Fundraising 101 (double session): CDC, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Rodney Carter, Midge Taylor

Program Evaluation: Dr. Stephan Thomas

## **Session Four, 3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

AIDS Programs in the Prisons: Colevia Carter

Principles of Fundraising 101 (continued)

Knowledge, Attitude and Behavior Studies: Amanda Hamilton-Houston

The Media: Effective Methods of AIDS Education in Black Communities: Al Cunningham

Case Management: Terri More

Starting a PWA Coalition: Larry Ellis, Jerome Boyce, David Holmes

## **BWMT Elects Officers**

Rene Seidel and Guy Hubbard were elected co-chairmen of Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles January 28, 1989 at the group's annual meeting held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. Also elected were Les Amer, treasurer; John Dick, secretary; and Mark Denton and Diamond Murray, members-at-large.

## **Black Lesbian Group Retreats to Sausalito**

Nia, an 11-member Bay Area black lesbian collective, sponsored a gathering for black lesbians at the Headlands Institute in Sausalito November 18 through 20, 1988. The event, which was called "Defining Ourselves," grew out of the Black Caucus at the 1987 Lesbians of Color Conference in San Francisco.

Over 100 women attended workshops such as "Black Transculturalism," "Being Round and Wonderful," "Black Lesbian Culture," "Incest: Speak Your Truth," "Fear: Terminal Cool," "Sexuality and Aging," "Lesbians of Color and AIDS" and "Goddess Spirituality and the Lesbian."

"Many women came eager, but fearful," said Asungi, a Los Angeles artist who attended the event. "But as the hours passed, there was a definite feeling of sisterhood, sharing and kindred spirits among the group."

"I felt totally positive about being a black lesbian," she went on, "and awaking to the fact that there is a black lesbian culture. Many women have kept in contact as an alternative to the bars."

Nia, which means "purpose" in Swahili, designed the conference as a support mechanism for black lesbians in the Bay Area and on the West Coast.

**Next Month  
in BLK  
What Gay People Need  
to Know about Income Tax  
PLUS  
BLK Interviews Porno Star  
Randy Cochran**



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

When radical faeries go guppie, apparently they don't have to go far to retrieve that instinctive gay flair for partyin' and panache.

Supper at the posh bash in question consisted of *din-don cuit au buffet*, *nee* basted turkey and pasta ("Serve yourself, honey, the Dark Meat's goin' fast"). The party was peopled with the "Do you have a card?" set, who'd have networked each other to death if they hadn't already sold each other tickets to every lesbian or gay fundraiser scheduled through autumn. Sprinkled amidst the politically correct champagne conversation were whispered references to Palm Springs timeshares, Cajun brunches and yes, junk bonds.

Invitations to the *soiree intime* summoned guests to join **Phill Wilson** and **Chris Brownlie** at their ramshackle-chic home in celebration of "nine years of commitment and two years with AIDS," a sweet 'n sour acknowledgement of how love can thrive amidst anguish.

For an old radical like Brownlie, this gathering of gay glitteratti must have seemed an odd place to end up after his years of anti-establishmentarianism. But success is the ultimate objective of any movement, and celebration is as much encouragement to as reward for success.

Present at the December 18 party was a swarm of black lesbian and gay activists including **Dennis Odums**, (first black) co-chair of the board of directors of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center; **Deborah Johnson**, and her Latina lover, **Zandy Rolon**, co-founders of the Motivational Institute (and victors of the famous Papa Choux Restaurant lawsuit, which established that same-sex couples cannot be discriminated against in restaurants); **Charles Stewart**, chief deputy to State Senator Diane Watson; **Chi Hughes**, former deputy director of GLCSC, now project director of AIDS Hospice Foundation, and her Pilipina lover, **Honey Ranario**; and **Kevin Jones** of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

Some of the other luminaries present included **Torie Osborn** (first female) executive director of GLCSC and her significant other, Attorney **Sheila James Kuehl**, formerly "Zelda" on the old *Dobbie Gillis Show*; **Michael Weinstein**, founder and executive director of AHF and his lover, **Albert Ruiz**; **Jean Conger**, executive director of Southern California for Understanding; **John Brown**, former executive director of GLCSC; **Sandy Dwyer**, publisher of *The News*; Doug Noble, deputy state attorney and former co-chair of BWMT/LA; and **Bill Weinberger**, past president of Lawyers for Human Rights, subject of a recent *Herald-Examiner* article on out-of-the-closet gay professionals.

You know the hosts. Or you should. Wilson is the erstwhile co-chair of BWMT/LA and founder of BGLLF which produces the annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. Wilson, 32 and bearing a more than passing resemblance to O.J. Simpson, is a consultant on gay, black and AIDS issues for several government and private concerns.

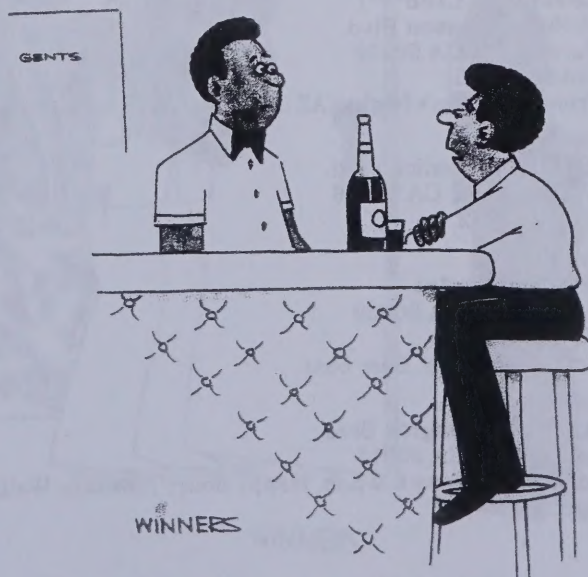
Brownlie, a boardmember of AHF, is the namesake of a just-opened hospice, and author of the insightful "Liberation Politics" column in *The News*. Brownlie has become Mr. PWA in the local media; whenever a pithy comment on life with AIDS in an uncaring cosmopolis is needed, the press will solicit a Brownlie quote. It was his

impassioned testimony before an L.A. County Commission which is widely credited with embarrassing the County's unsympathetic Board of Supervisors into funding care for PWAs.

They tied the knot nine years ago in Chicago, and with the help of some of Southern California's Best and Brightest, tightened it a little bit last December.

**SPEAKING OF THINGS GETTING TIGHT**, looks like **Bevan Dufty** will soon be out of a job. But if he knew, Bevan never let on during his jammin' New Year's Day soul food party that his boss, Councilman **Zev Yaroslavsky**, was about to dump his foolhardy campaign to supplant **Tom Bradley** as Mayor in the April 4th election. **Bevan**, the first black Co-Chair of MECLA, L.A.'s gay PAC, has been on the stump for Zev since August as a paid campaigner. But some of us hope he will now re-enlist with ex-boss Congressman **Julian Dixon**, and help ready him to become L.A. County's first black Supervisor.

**SHORTIES**. Was it really necessary for **Arsenio Hall** to wonder out loud on one of his recent shows if **James Brown** would become "the homecoming queen of Cellblock H"?...**Patti LaBelle** saluted **Sylvester** with an AIDS benefit concert on behalf of the Shanti Project in San Francisco January 20...The diva at the Minority AIDS Project continues to gather awards from practically everywhere. Christopher Street West, the West Hollywood parade people, have made **Rev. Carl Bean** their Man of the Year for 1989. He joins the likes of **Troy Perry**, **Leonard Matlovich**, **Dorr Legg** and **Eric Rofes**, a few past recipients of the award. The Valley Business Alliance gave Rev a plaque, probably for reminding them of how hard it is for the rich to get into Heaven. And the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church awarded him their Lazarus Project Award which goes annually to the person who did the most to effect "reconciliation between the gay and the non-gay worlds." Anyway, he received his plaque at a Sheraton Townhouse banquet January 29. Glad some Anglo gay organizations are giving Carl his due now, 'cuz we remember when only we thought he was special and they groaned to see him coming.



"I've got ten inches, a big house, a big car and lots of money, but he'd still rather have L.L. Cool J."



# Community Directory

Please let BLK know of any changes or additions that should be made to this Community Directory.

## BARS AND BATHS

### Annex\*

835 S. LaBrea Ave.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-671-7323

### Basgo's\*

3909 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-664-1929

### The Californian Club Nu-Vo\*\*\*†

1755 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90062  
213-299-2929

### Caper Room\*\*\*

244 S. Market St.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-677-0403  
Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male Exotic Dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free Buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.

### Catch One\*\*\*

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-1159  
Sundays 4-8 p.m. Women's Tea Dance; Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.

### Cottage\*\*\*†

5050 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-935-5540

### Cover Girl Club\*\*\*†

9300 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90230  
213-870-1595  
Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)

### Eagle\*

7864 Santa Monica Blvd.  
W. Hollywood, CA 90046  
213-654-3252

### Griff's\*

4216 Melrose Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-660-0889  
Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.

### Horizon\*\*\*

3416 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Tuesdays Welfare Night

### Jewel's Room\*\*\*

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-1159  
Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.

### Midtowne Spa\*\*

615 S. Kohler St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
213-680-1838  
Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price, 8 p.m. until Dancing downstairs; Wednesdays 8 p.m. Drawing for \$50 first prize; Fridays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs, 10 p.m. Erotic dance show; Saturdays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs.

### Rage\*

8911 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90069  
213-652-7596

### Study\*\*

1723 N. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-464-9551  
Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour

## RESTAURANTS

### Carriage Trade\*

8225 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
213-655-6425

### Casita de Campo\*

1920 Hyperion Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-662-4255

### Crest\*

3725 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
213-660-3645

\*Slightly black

\*\*Significantly black

\*\*\*Almost all black

\*\*\*\*Whites are shot on sight

†Mixed gay and straight

## ORGANIZATIONS

### Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group

168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201  
Los Angeles, CA 90008  
Saturdays 5 p.m.

### Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 6 p.m.



**Alcoholism Center for Women**

1147 S. Alvarado St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90006  
213-381-7805  
Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**

Box 29812  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-667-2549  
Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-274-3398  
1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Jack**

Box 83515  
Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515  
213-338-1516

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**

1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110  
W. Hollywood, CA 90069  
213-652-3894  
2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together**

Los Angeles Chapter  
7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
213-664-4716  
Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering Committee Meeting (location varies)

**Black and White Men Together**

National Organization  
584 Castro St. #140  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415-431-1976

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-664-0234, 213-274-3398

**Gentlemen Concerned**

Box 712298  
Bunker Hill Station  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

**Makeda**

1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129  
Los Angeles, CA 90016  
213-935-4105  
Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" Black Women Support Group.

**Minority AIDS Project**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking Support Group; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS Support Group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); Fridays 1 p.m. Family Members of AIDS Patients Support Group.

**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**

19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48219  
313-537-0484

**United Fellowship Church**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship Service; Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study; Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**

4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B  
Compton, CA 90221  
213-639-3068

**Womyn of Colors**

1213 N. Highland Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90038  
213-464-7400, ext. 205  
Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**

9001 Keith Ave.  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
213-274-3398

**Z and Z Productions**

4153 Garden Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90039  
213-663-6340



"It's not what you think, honey. She's a lesbian and I brought her home for you."

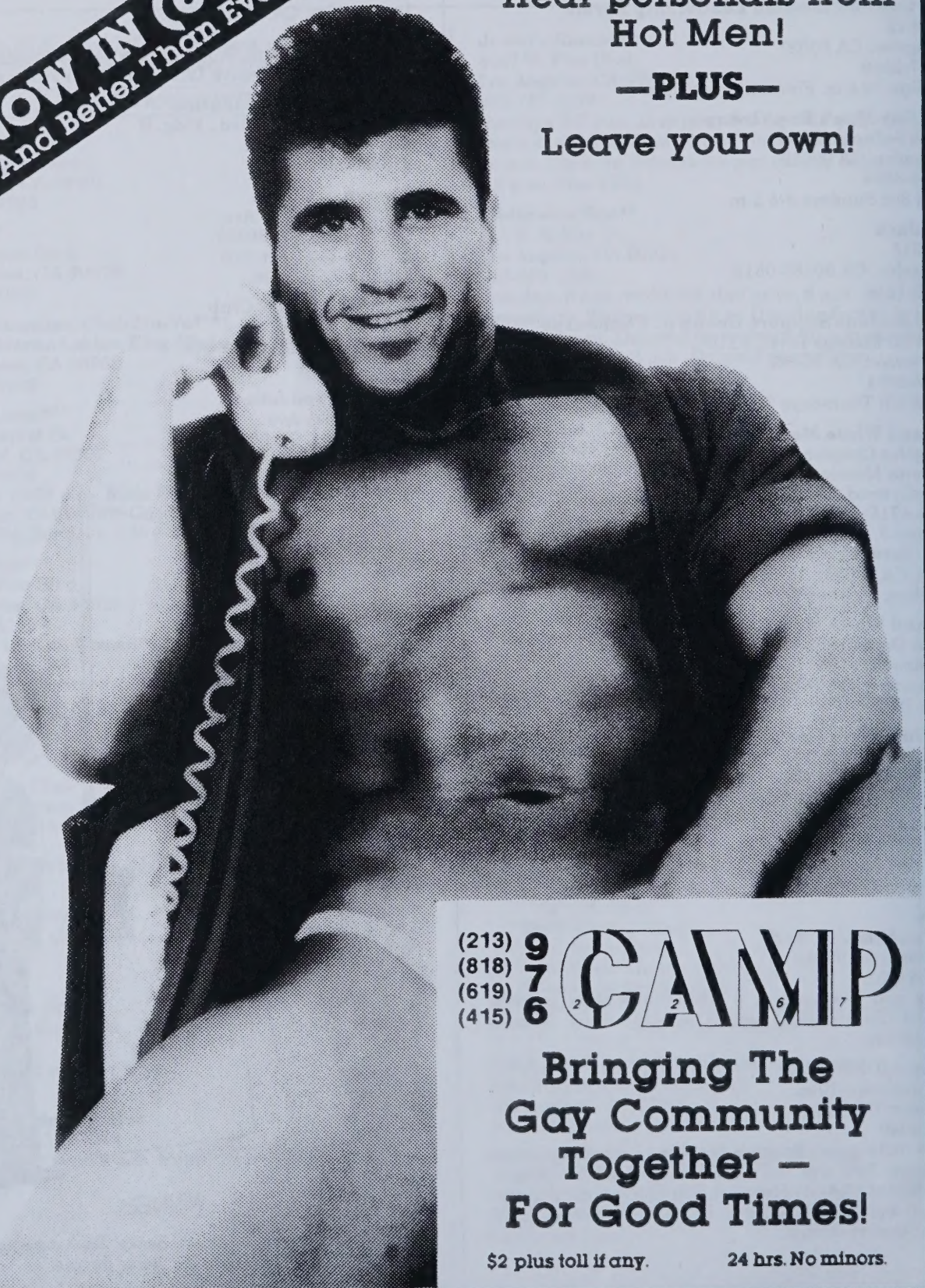


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# Classifieds

## SERVICES

Top-notch, no-nonsense professional psychic counselor offers heart-felt, in-depth guidance on your major concerns. Money accepted only if your needs are met. 1989 forecast included. (Introductory discount available.) Jerry 213-665-3479. (3)

## EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Black gay male seeking light cleaning jobs. Reasonable rates possible other things. Call 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Charles 213-622-9635. (4)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

BLK needs people in the following categories. ADVERTISING SALES: Two people to sell advertising space on a commission basis. NEWS: Reporters to handle special assignments. All positions part time. Women especially encouraged to apply. BLK, Box 83812, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Call Alan at 213-410-0808. (TF)

Blackstar II. The agency of the stars is now representing the new generation of huge black men. 213-460-6309.

## WANTED

Phallic Science Church needs: rolltop desk, used/new legal and letter file cabinet (two drawers to three drawers), and a photographer for nude models and videos. Write C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Your nude black and white photos welcomed. (TF)

## FOR SALE

1975 BMW, great condition. Must sell now. \$2700 or best offer. 213-665-3479. Jerry. (3)

1973 Mercury Montego MX BRO. Red with white interior. Runs good and very dependable. 8-cylinder with air conditioning. Needs radio and vinyl top. Interested? Call me for test run evenings. \$600 or best offer. Dennis 213-731-3659. (TF)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Black actor, musician, very good looking, former gourmet cook and property manager seeks room and board in exchange for household duties. References on request. Call Bert 818-888-5015, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. only.

Black and clean to share small bachelor apt. very near ocean in Venice. \$150 wk. Very nice, many extras. Call anytime 213-396-4761. Sincere, masculine, good looking.

Blk man w/ ocean vu vacation timeshare condo for sale. Must sell quickly. Keith at 213-305-7032. (TF)

## MODELS

Black College Jock. 24 years old, 6'1", 170 lbs., hung, cut and thick. Safe and clean. Into most scenes. Call Lee at 213-739-8781.

Hot black man, 10" hung, 31 years, 5'10", 155 lbs., hard body, safe in LA, Gardena area. In \$40, out \$50. Call Dave 213-779-6829. 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

## MASSEURS

Very attractive body builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

Hands: Rick: An extraordinary guy to meet. Chippendale masseur and physical trainer. Reach for the best and enjoy it. 818-506-6821. (Male and female.) (3)

## PERSONALS

Attractive, sincere French guy, 29, 5'11", 175, muscular, uncut, seeks tall, massive, hunky, black bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for friendship. Box 456, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90046 (4)

Blond bottom, 6'4", 200, 45; wants thin 18-28. 213-281-6138. (6)

Black, black and pretty brown males: A sincere GBM, age 47 (looks 35), 5'7", 219, is looking for a friend into clean living. I like solid-built, masculine, black males, one-on-one, non-effeminate, intelligent and caring. D.P., Box 84174, Los Angeles, CA 90073. (3)

18 yr. butch GWM seeks young, muscular, masculine BM. Steven, 15167 Magnolia Blvd., Suite D, Sherman Oaks, 91403. Enclose a picture please. (Will be returned.) (3)

Attractive GBM, 28, very lonely, seeks masculine GM, 30-45 years for dating relationship must be warm, sincere, able to travel. Photo a plus. Brent Harris, 2800 Broadway #3, Box 118, Sacramento, CA 95817. (TF)

Athletic black male, 5'10", solid build, seeks other black men who are athletic, masculine, in good physical shape and mature in spirit. Must be into safe sex only. Call and leave message. 213-750-6361. (TF)

A very handsome middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6:00 p.m. (3)

TLC for gentle BM. Lonely? Looking for someone who cares? Tall, slender, gentle WM, 43, dark hair and eyes, HIV negative, seeks slim, av-blk BM under 45 for romance, and drug-free, safe & sane good times. Interests include foreign travel, piano, photography, classical music, the arts. Interested in meeting? Write: 11020 Ventura Blvd. #118, Studio City, CA 91604. (3)

I love black men. Let's start with a letter. Me: Latin man, 28, 5'6", 130 lbs., 28" waist, smooth body. You: black, masculine, big, any age. Picture please. (Will return.) Write to: Carlos Alonso, 1770 N. Highland Ave. #644, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (4)

Blond hunk seeks young thin top. Box 75441, LA 90075. (6)

WM, 38, seeks BM 22-42 for one-to-one. R.F., Box 1247, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. (3)

Attractive GWM, twenty-something, seeks masculine GBM, twenty or thirty-something, for loving relationship. We are



healthy, caring, intelligent, fun, safe. Call Rick, 213-668-0233. (3)

White boy, 29, 6', 180, seeks large, muscular, dominant Black Master to teach my bottom Black Discipline. Safe sex is a must. Box 70691, Pasadena, CA 91107. (4)

Puerto Rican, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs., seeking daytime masculine black-Latins hung fat to please. Willie 213-657-2539. (6)

Zachary: formerly Warehouse, formerly Lyman Place. Where are you? Please write: DK, Box 42294, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (3)

GWM, dominant dad, handsome, 60, top seeks creative sucker under 45, any race. Hairy, a plus. No booze/drugs. Photo/phone. Box 155, 8721 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (4)

Seduce Me: Husky Scandinavian, blue-eyed blond, brd/-must; 40, 6', 210#, pasvly domnt, cigarette smoker. Seek relationship w/stable G/A, F/A/P, 27-37 man w/dark gdlks, gdbld. Fun, good (safe) sex. Future. Photo & phone: DK, Box 42294, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (3)

Black, Latin or Asian man wanted to hang out with WM, 39. We share these traits: non-smoker, straight-appearing, health-oriented, physically-active, self-reliant, responsible, romantic, sensual. Art 213-674-9032 anytime.

Good looking professional Latin male seeks boyfriend for dating, safe sex, possible lover. Me: 43, 5'6", 150 lbs., hot bottom. You: 30-45, hot, hung top looking for a real relationship. Masculine and in-shape only. Black and Latins + + +. Call evenings. 213-258-6318.

I want black top. GWM, 5'9", 160 lbs. seeks good looking, well hung black man who likes to fuck (condom). Call Raymond 213-382-3186.

BM, 47 years old, 5'8", 140 lbs. seeks friendship. 213-732-8591. Robert.

Good looking black Sagittarius 5'10", 145 lbs., looking for a good looking masculine Leo or Aries, 34 to 40 years young, 5'10" up. Let's share life together. Coty 213-755-8848. (3)

Hot white sucker, 32, seeks blacks 50+. B.B., Box 10501, Glendale, CA 91209-3501.

Young black wanted. You: 18+, small, thin and hairless, in need of caring father-image and possible lover. Me: 40, handsome top, who wants cute buddy and friend. Call 213-936-0200, ext 5011.

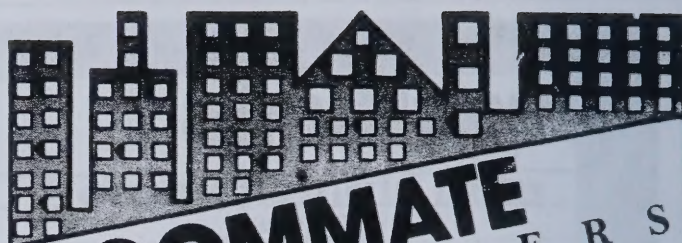
White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Black man, masculine, interested in meeting intelligent and comical other black males for conversation and good times. Chuck 213-382-6943. (TF)

24-year-old, 5'7", small athletic build, seeks relationship with caring, intelligent, non-effeminate man. Write E. Christo, Box 71123, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (TF)

Sincere GBM, age 26, 6'5", 215 lbs., looking for a good "safe" friend. Masculine types of close or similar stature please respond. If you love tennis, good music, and the movies, plus the companionship of another gay brother, write Michael J., 7549 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046. (TF)

Hot, attractive, 39-year-old male, outgoing and intelligent, seeks masculine, mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Call C.B., 714-682-4685, Riverside, California. (TF)



# ROOMMATE MATCHERS

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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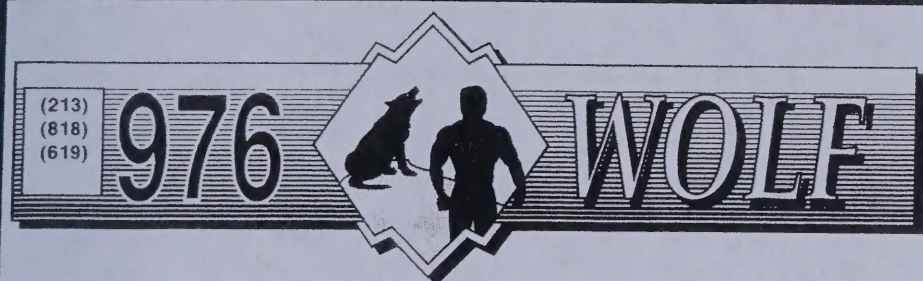
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# BLK

Number 3, February 1989





# LAPIS

## *Creativity Series for Lesbians of Color*

February 11, 1989

**"Writing as a Spiritual/Creative Inlet"**

**Facilitator: Marilyn Cruz**

Writing is an extremely powerful medium to discover and uncover ourselves as creative, whole women. The journey within will be gently facilitated using visualizations and writing exercises.

February 18, 1989

**"We are the Earth: Images of our Bodies in Clay"**

**Facilitator: Venice Peddicord**

Our concept of beauty and images of women's bodies will be translated into the clay; in essence, creating ourselves.

February 25, 1989

**"Lesbian Sexuality: Eroticizing Safe Play for Lesbians"**

**Facilitator: Laura Ramos**

Utilizing visuals and a dialogue format, we will be exploring on of the most creative aspects of ourselves as women, our sexuality. Safe Sex Play for Lesbians will be discussed within this context.

March 4, 1989

To be announced.

March 11, 1989

**"Creating Power Bundles"**

**Facilitator: Rosalie Ortega**

Women will have the opportunity to create physical affirmations. Please bring personal objects.

The workshops will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Milagros Valdes for information and pre-registration at (213) 381-7805

**Cost:** \$5 donation fee for supplies is requested at each session. No one denied service because of inability to pay.

**ACW**

1147 S. Alvarado Street • Los Angeles, CA 90006





# Calendar

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1989

Trip to Las Vegas sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Leave from Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA at 7 a.m. Return to Los Angeles Sunday at 10 p.m. \$25 includes transportation and hotel. For more information, call Gene at 213-298-0656.

Bowling for Dollars sponsored by Unity Fellowship Church. 3-6 p.m. Midtown Bowl, 4645 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. \$4.50 per person entry fee. Free shoe rental. Proceeds to Unity Fellowship Center. For more information, call Valerie at 213-759-1585.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1989

Moonlight Roller Rink Party sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 5110 San Fernando Rd., Glendale, CA. 7:30 p.m. \$5 including skates.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1989

Romantic Videos Night sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 540 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA. 7:30 p.m. Call 213-661-8657 between 7-9 p.m. for more information.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1989

Craig Lee, a former editor of L.A. Weekly, and Vaginal Creme Davis, formerly a singer in the Afro Sisters group, will read from their own works of poetry at A Different Light, 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 7 p.m. Free. 213-668-0629.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1989

Charity Basketball Game sponsored by the Women's Committee of Unity Fellowship Church. YMCA, 3820 Santa Rosalia, Los Angeles, CA. 4-5:30 p.m. \$3. Special guests will include Former Harlem Globetrotter Joyce Walker and USC Alumni Jamaiia Bond, Kalan Wright and Yolanda Fletcher. Male members of the church will serve as cheerleaders (complete with pom-poms) and will provide half-time entertainment.

Red and White Valentine's Ball at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 8 p.m.-3 a.m. Roses for early arrivals. Cash prizes for best dressed.

HIV+ Support Group Pot Luck sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 1614 Silverlake Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 4 p.m.

Special Valentine's Day Male Exotic Show at Caper Room, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA. 10:30 p.m. \$3.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AIDS Institute; 6-8 p.m. Reception at Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA; 8 p.m. "A Tribute to Sylvester" concert starring Chaka Kahn, Jeannie Tracey and Kim Miller at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Con-

ference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration; 9 a.m.-noon Opening session; Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch for PWAs; 1:30-5:30 p.m. Workshop sessions; 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Banquet and dancing with special guests J'ai and Taurean Blaque.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 9-10:30 a.m. Church service at Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Workshop sessions; 1-3 p.m. Luncheon sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council with special guests Whoopi Goldberg and Natalie Cole; 3-4 p.m. Closing session.

Open house and social reception sponsored by Black Jack on the occasion of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. The Regency Plaza Hotel, 7940 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 7 p.m.-midnight. Free. Non-sexual. Open to non-Black Jack members as well as non-conference participants. 213-338-1516.

Mardi Gras Party at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. After hours.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Last day. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leadership roundtable.

# BLK

Number 3, February 1989

*Edited and published by Alan Bell. Editorial staff:* L. Paul Davis, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Harvey Huggins, Chi Hughes, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen, Jarvis D. Moore, Charles Stewart, Christine Tripp. *Photographic staff:* Bill Doggett, Bob Finney, Terry Johnson, Nathan Turner. *Advertising staff:* Gene Cornelius. *Business staff:* Howard McPhatter.

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Cover photograph: J'ai

Cartoons courtesy Ebony Magazine.  
New captions by BLK.



# J'ai

*The lady sings the blues*

**By Mark Haile**





J'ai tilts back her head and laughs. She's getting used to people being amazed that a young, beautiful singer with such a positive outlook on life could be so thoroughly devoted to the blues.

"The blues are my life," she admits. That much seems natural, being born into a musical family, her father and uncle performing with legends, the likes of Billie Holiday, Lionel Hampton, B.B. King and Dizzie Gillespie.

J'ai was singing before she could walk, writing her first song at 10 years of age. Upbeat and confident, she radiates the same warmth up close that fans know to expect from her on stage. The loyal following that has sprung up across Los Angeles has been treated to an artist who insists on collaborating with her audience.

"I need it!" she exclaims. "I need that interaction. It's my energy. It's a gift to be able to communicate with an audience like that."

Skilled as an actress, singer, radio and television personality, J'ai could easily rocket to stardom as a pop singer. Why choose such a demanding and specialized sound as the blues?

"It's rooted across America—it's our heritage!" she responds. "It's the truest form of American music. I want to bring the blues back." How could she make people relate to the blues in the era of rap music? "Blues are universal," J'ai explains. "Every woman, and every man, too, will relate. If you've ever had a broken heart, or were embarrassed in school when you were six years old...you've had the blues." She points out that the blues are the voices of every day life, good and bad, challenging the misconception of blues as the cry of the victimized and the downtrodden.

"My blues are definitely joyous. It's all done in fun. I want to tell people, look at the blues from the fun side of life! These are the things going on in the world, and this is what we can do about it."

J'ai stresses positive thinking and self-confidence in the songs she writes. "New Day Blues" brings out the influence of the great blues singers whom she studies intensely. From Ida Cox and Ma Rainey to Alberta Hunter Janis Joplin, J'ai researches the styles and forms of the women who paved the way for an independent singer with a vision.

"It makes me more than happy to sing the blues. Who I am is the type of music that I sing. If you believe in yourself, that's when everything happens for you," she asserts.

For J'ai, it has been happening very quickly. During her second professional performance, she had the good fortune to have Teddy Everest, blues guitarist to Billie Holliday, on stage with her. Since her successful European debut, J'ai has performed locally in such clubs as the Cinegrill, At My Place, Bon Appetit and the Rose Tattoo. She has proven as adept at performing for thousands as in intimate settings, as by her appearance at the West Hollywood and Sunset Junction Street Fairs demonstrate.

The intimate relationship that J'ai enjoys with her audience comes out of her intense commitment to incorporate them into her performance. "Without my audience, I'm not me. Once I'm on stage, and I've got my mike, and I've got my audience, I'm okay. I'm doing what most performers only wish they could do—perform exactly what they want to do, and certainly enjoy it! I'm a very lucky person."

J'ai is not a total stranger to the down side of the blues, her mother having died when she was a child. "My mother was my best friend," J'ai remembers. "She's there with me all the time when I'm on stage. She's a big part of me." More recently, the deaths of friends from violence

and AIDS have profoundly affected the singer's life.

On February 3, J'ai will be performing in "The Survivors," a benefit for Being Alive/People with AIDS Action Coalition at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. The evening will be a tribute to people living with AIDS. On February 18, J'ai will be performing at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference at the University Hilton. She will also be performing in At My Place on February 8 in Santa Monica, and later in the month at a \$500 per plate dinner to benefit the Venice Family Clinic. About AIDS, J'ai states emphatically, "If you can do anything to draw attention to it, do it. There are people not doing what they ought to be doing. It's the most dreaded fear the world faces." J'ai matches her actions with her philosophy about the blues as she practices what she preaches. "Do something about it!" she challenges people, as she did when performing at the historic appearance of Jesse Jackson at Catch One in June 1988.

J'ai sums up her quest for making the blues a meaningful tool for life, repeating, "I'm a very lucky person. I'm very blessed. This is my time. I'm dedicated to making the blues accessible to people. This is what it's about, and this is what you've got to do! Things happen for people who believe in themselves and persevere. It will happen for you, it will happen for people."



J'ai



# German Maisonet

## *A doctor talks about health care for blacks in the Age of AIDS*

By Alan Bell and Jarvis D. Moore

*German Victor Maisonet-Rodriguez, M.D., F.A.A.P., is a board certified general pediatrician who has had extensive experience with both the chemically dependent and people who are HIV positive.*

*Since his move to Los Angeles in 1978, Maisonet has been professionally affiliated with many hospitals, including Coldwater Canyon Hospital, Pasadena Community Hospital, Glendora Community Hospital, West Hollywood Hospital, and Kaiser Permanente. He is currently a member of the Los Angeles Mission College faculty in the Department of Chemical Dependency Studies. He is also a member of many California medical societies.*

*In addition to his private practice, Maisonet was the Co-Medical Director of the Minority AIDS Proj-*

### THE BLK INTERVIEW

*ect until March 1988. He has worked with the Shanti Foundation and the National Minority AIDS Council. He volunteered to work on the National Strategy Team for Surgeon General C. Everett Koop., and on the Advisory Board to the UCLA Gay Men's Study on condoms, anal intercourse, and viricidal lubricants.*

*Four months after he was born, he and his family moved from Puerto Rico to New York. Doted upon at four by a lady who ran a bordello in a neighboring apartment, and sexually molested by a babysitter at five, Maisonet had a varied early childhood. Surviving it, he says, gave him a strong spiritual foundation. Spanish was the primary language at home and he did not learn to speak English until he was six years old. Quite early, at age five, he decided to become a doctor.*

*He attended New York public schools and graduated from Columbia in 1968. During that period of student activism and political awareness, Maisonet participated in the take over of a building at Columbia by the Afro-American Student Society. He came out at the prestigious Albert Einstein Medical School in New York. Although he tried to remain politically active, he endured hostility even from fellow black students. "What they were saying is 'you have no right to exist as a black person who is gay,' and that is racism," Maisonet says. He graduated with honors in 1974.*

*Dr. Maisonet fulfilled his junior residency in New York, and his senior residency in Cincinnati in 1977.*

*What is the state of health care for black gay men and lesbians in the United States?*

Black people tend to have some of the worst health care (superseded only by native Americans in certain areas) and the reason is that the delivery of health care is uneven in this country. If you live in West Hollywood, you are pretty lucky. You have a community that supports you. If you live in South Central or in East Los Angeles, good luck.

*Why is that?*

Racism! I know you are going to call me a "sixties radical," but we have got to face the fact that racism, institutional racism, skews many statistics. Let me give some examples of how ridiculous the American system has become. A black child born in Cuba lives longer, and can expect to see his fifth birthday much more likely than a black child born within a fifty mile radius of the White House. The funny part is if you look at little countries like Anguila, Barbados, Curacao, and Jamaica, black children born there stand a better chance of seeing their fifth birthday than do black children born anywhere in the United States. I don't want to urge all gay black people to move to West Hollywood, but what has to happen is a more equitable health delivery system.

*Are you talking so-called socialized medicine?*

We're the only capitalist country that doesn't have it. Health care should be a right, not a privilege of the wealthy. Our for-profit medical system is interventionist rather than preventative. You treat the patient when they get sick instead of trying to maintain a well person.

*What can we do?*

We must realize that health care is political for black people because we are disproportionately dependent on funds allocated to health care voted upon by Congress. The current President of the United States was voted in by only 40 percent of the electorate. I'm sure a lot of people who didn't go to vote were black gay people. Gays are 10 percent of the population, and black gays are 10 percent of that. So there could have been 250,000 people working hard, registering voters, and going out demonstrating.

*What about Jesse Jackson?*

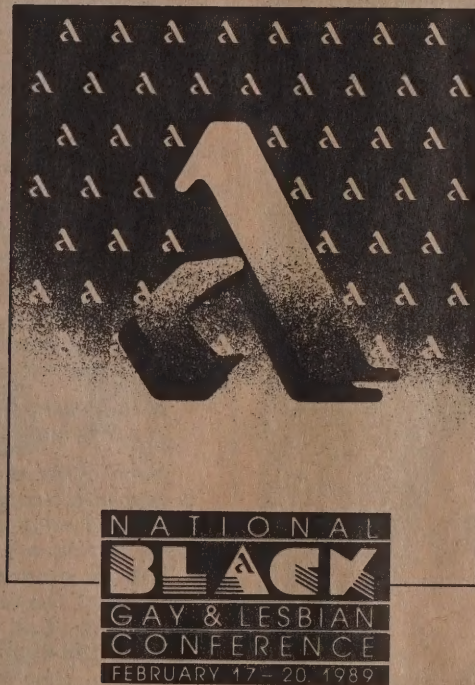
Jackson had openly gay people in the Rainbow Coalition. He mentioned the words, gay, lesbian, and AIDS during the Democratic Convention. I would like to have seen how it would have turned out if, since he did not get the presidential nomination, he would have become the new Democratic National Chair. Probably our agenda would have been accepted.

*And with Dukakis...?*

I didn't think Dukakis was any great shakes. In fact, I think George Bush would probably be a better President than Dukakis because he may be more open in what he says, he will probably carry out. I think we will probably



# Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



## The Second Annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and AIDS Institute February 17-20, 1989

### FRIDAY

#### *"You Made Us Feel Mighty Real"*

A Tribute to Sylvester

*Starring*

**Chaka Kahn,  
Jeannie Tracey  
& Kim Miller**

9:00 P.M.

Catch One Disco  
4067 W. Pico Blvd.

Tickets: \$10.00 ea.

### Special Events

### SATURDAY

#### *"An Evening at the Cotton Club"*

A Musical Salute to the  
Black Divas of the Blues

*Starring*

**Sweet Baby J'ai**

*With a Special Appearance by  
Taurean Blaque  
of "Hill Street Blues"*

7:00 P.M.

The Grand Ballroom  
of the University Hilton

Tickets: \$50.00 ea.

### SUNDAY

**National Minority  
AIDS Council  
Benefit Luncheon**

*Honoring*

**Whoopi Goldberg**

*With Special Guest  
Natalie Cole*

1:30 P.M.

The Grand Ballroom of the University  
Hilton

Tickets: \$35.00 ea.

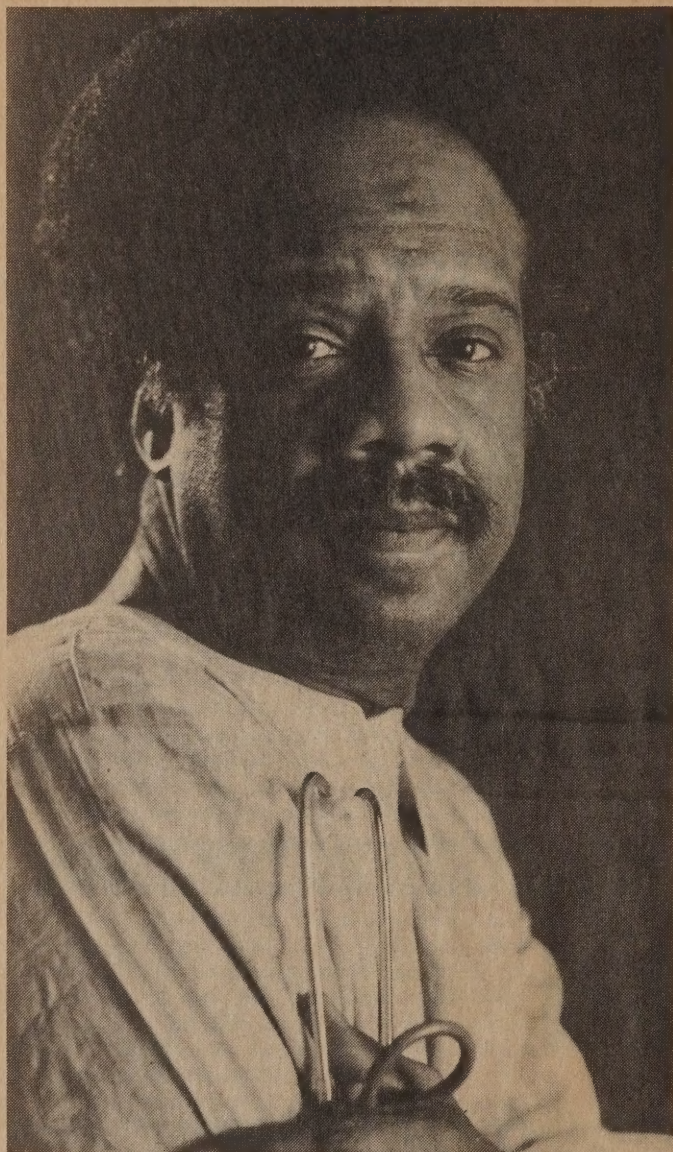
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German Maisonet. Photo by Bob Finney.

see the reappointment of Everett Koop as Surgeon General or the creation of an AIDS office which would be at a para-cabinet level.

*Would such an office be really useful or would it simply mean more salaries and more copying machines?*

It depends on the person who runs the office. If it is Koop, or someone of his stature and integrity, who knows health care issues, it will work.

*Who wouldn't you like to see in this position?*

There's a Dr. Lorimar here in Southern California. I would not like to see him or anybody like that.

*How could this national AIDS office be effective?*

First, there's no need to create a new bureaucracy in the AIDS industry. We have to make those organizations which are present now more sensitive to the needs of black people. For example, instead of pulling money away from county hospitals, they need more. That is where a disproportionate number of black people, especially black gay people get their treatment. There are addicts who are not going to go to a testing center no

matter what you do. We may need to send vans to go out and do testing for people who cannot get out of their neighborhood or feel trapped in their neighborhood.

*What are agencies and authorities not doing that you would like to see them do?*

There must be more cultural consideration in the delivery of health services. Many of the strategies for getting information about AIDS out to white gay men are not as functional in the black and Latino communities.

*Many agencies have put out pamphlets, used billboards, and made videos. Does any of that stuff work?*

I do not think it is working for black gay men. I think the people who are going to have to deliver the message are going to have to look like the people whom they want the message to be accepted by.

*Are you suggesting that someone like Mike Tyson do safe sex commercials?*

A well-known black heterosexual name would be a plus for advertizing to heterosexuals. For gay men, it might possibly work. Blacks have got to educate blacks.

*Well, we've got the Minority AIDS Project Los Angeles and the National Minority AIDS Council.*

I was a member of the Board of Directors and Co-Medical Director of the Minority AIDS Project until March of '88.

*What happened?*

I'd rather not go into that.

*Is the project headed in the right direction?*

It needs more funding.

*Some of the agencies have been criticized for supposedly becoming too concerned with conferences, writing articles, and being on TV as opposed to the grassroots delivery of services to people who are infected.*

I think minority agencies in general are going to have to confront the fact that in Los Angeles County, at least 90 percent of all cases of AIDS in the black community and are gay men. They need to be made accountable for the money they receive. I think we need somebody at the state and local level, and a national representative to say if you want money for health care, then you deliver health care. I mean that if they can't cover gay men, and that's 90 percent of the cases, they should give 90 percent of the money back. Also, many minority organizations need technical advice on how to cope with change. The organization may be successful at a grassroots level, then they get drowned in money and are expected to grow quickly, and they can't handle it.

*Do you have a particular organization in mind when you say this?*

I think all agencies are like that, not just the minority ones. But I remember when APLA was first developing. It went from a hotline to a multi-million dollar non-profit agency by hiring staff, developing policies for any situation, getting insurance, and keeping excellent records for auditing and tax purposes. Maybe we need to develop a brain trust or data bank to assist agencies in managing change.

*Are some agencies in "competition" with one another?*

No one agency should think that it is going to be able to do it alone. And no single agency whether it's black, Latino, or Asian should decide that because another agency is developing along different lines that there is a lack of consensus. I don't know why people get all upset and bent out of shape. Eventually there will have to be agencies that specialize. For example, the IV drug users and prostitutes can go into drug and alcohol recovery



Mayor Tom Bradley  
Phyllis Diller  
Michele Lee

Judith Light  
Eddie Albert

Gloria Loring  
Robert Desiderio  
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and

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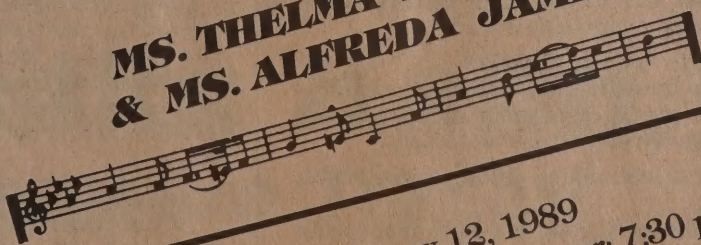
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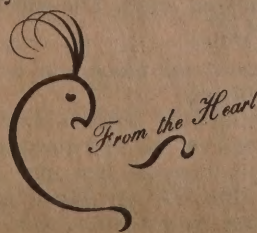
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programs and perinatal clinics that already exist.

*So in the minority community, is it reasonable to expect one agency...*

...minority agencies undertake all of it at the same time.

*Do you think that's reasonable?*

Absolutely not.

*In the white gay community there are a number of AIDS agencies each with a slightly different different focus from the next.*

Yes, APLA has the Necessities of Life program whose mission is to collect food. The AFA is the one that helps distribute funds. APLA was the one that did the case management and the study program.

*What other things might be done if there were more funding?*

With more funding, there could be street outreach to deliver health care at more alternative sites. Everyone is worried about the heterosexuals with AIDS in the black community. Well, people have to remember that gay people use facilities in the general community. Gay women get pregnant and have babies. Gay men can father babies.

*Gay babies?*

Yes, gay people can have children. Black gay people live in black communities, and Latino gays live in Latino communities, and the health care of every person of color in their communities is bound up together.

*Should everyone take the test for AIDS? And is it really confidential? What if you just practice safe sex with everyone, do you really need to know if you are HIV positive?*

What's necessary is that everyone change their behavior to low risk activities. I don't think everyone needs to take the test, but you need to know if you have the virus. You need to know so that you can plan your life and change your sexual behavior. The county facilities and some that are not county facilities are anonymous. One place is The Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, although it was closed for 48 hours due to a lack of insurance. We need more testing places in Watts and East Los Angeles, but there is a drawback to that. Everybody knows each other and it's not anonymous sitting in the waiting room of your community clinic.

*So then the test really isn't confidential?*

The bottom line is that the test results are confidential because there is a lot of repercussion for anyone who would even come close to violating confidentiality.

*What about people outside taking down people's license plate numbers?*

I don't buy that because it takes too much money and too much of somebody's time. People should not be concerned or overly paranoid. Further, I recommend that a person should get pre-test counseling. I have had patients come into my office who wanted to be tested, and after speaking to them for 15 minutes, I could advise them that they weren't ready. Have you changed your behavior I would ask? Are you using condoms? "Well, kind of." Either you do, or you don't. The virus is not impressed with, "Well, kind of."

*Is there a real difference in the black and white gay communities in terms of statistics?*

Black gay men are testing HIV positive at a higher rate than their white gay peers. We still have a higher rate of sexually transmitted diseases. One of the things you have to remember is that the gay community is a drug afflicted community and my gut feeling is that there

are more drugs in the black community in general.

*Is there anything we can do?*

One of the most important things the black community must do is raise its level of self-esteem, especially gay black men. I think a lot of unsafe sex is desperate sex. Now we must care about ourselves and each other. We have to respect our partners and be considerate, and that means keeping safety in mind at all times. Safety must become a part of daily routine.

*That sounds like a substantive-long term change in lifestyle.*

Yes, but I remember we had a Civil Rights Movement, which changed the opinion black people had of themselves and we forget that some of the spearheads for that movement were very courageous black men and women who could not come out of the closet at that time. We forget that the mentor of the late sixties of black and white youth was a black gay man and a pivotal play was written by black lesbian. I mean Bayard Rustin, Lorraine Hansberry, and James Baldwin. We also have to remember the good things about ourselves.

*What advice do you have for those who are HIV positive or who have an active case of AIDS?*

Even if you are healthy, there is still the reaction, "Oh my God, I am going to die." There is the tendency to feel isolated, even though part of a support network. It is not easy to talk about AIDS, but have someone to talk to.

*What about their special medical needs?*

That is a real problem, because what I am starting to find is something I had suspected for a long time. Physicians in general do not wish to take care of or provide primary care for people with AIDS. I think the numbers are even smaller for black and Latino medical professionals. In the black community, and in the Latino as well as others, there is still the concept that AIDS is a gay disease. With the assumption that it is a white gay disease because these communities do not want to acknowledge that there are significant numbers of gays in their communities. This virus does not care who you are.

*Do you have anything to say to people who know someone who is sick? Should they get special counseling?*

The psychological aspect of AIDS is dramatic. There is a lot of raw pain, suffering, and crying in the community. Get counseling for yourself and loved ones around you. There are still many fears in the community, such as a person can get AIDS by living with a person who has AIDS, which is not true. AIDS is not casually transmitted.

*Is there a final comment you want to make?*

If you have not established a relationship with a physician, not only have any AIDS related issues been ignored, but so has your general health. If you have waited for a long time before seeing a doctor, one of the reasons might be that you don't have the money. If you were not poor before you had AIDS, you will be poor after you get it. Your health is priceless.

**Next Month  
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# *You Made Us Feel Mighty Real*



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**SUNDAY** - Luncheon honoring Whoopi Goldberg with special guest Natalie Cole to benefit the National Minority Aids Council. 1:30 P.M. University Hilton Hotel. For more information or to register for the Conference, contact the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum: 213/667-2549.

**For More Information, Call 213/667-2549**

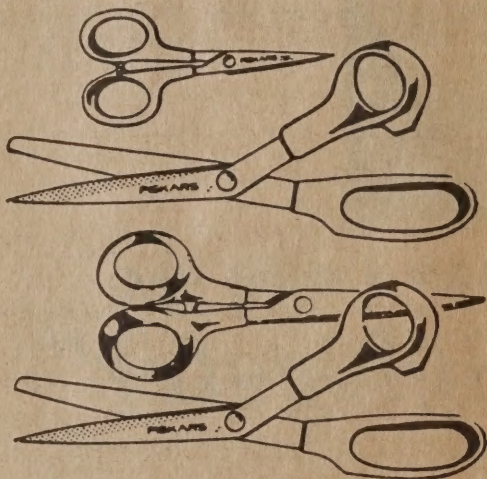


# Celebrity Foreskin

*Who's circumcised and who's not among black newsmakers*

**By Jarvis D. Moore**

Circumcision is a big issue with gay men, since the penises of other men, as well as their own, play such an important role in their sexual lives and fantasies. For many years in the gay world, the "uncut" man was often made to feel unwanted in sexual relationships. Today, however, "uncut" is "in" with many gays. Why? Probably because "uncut" is a novelty in a generally "cut" society. In the post-World War II years, circumcision was so universal in most areas, that many boys reported they had never seen a foreskin during their youth. The situation is



changing rapidly. Today the National Center for Health Statistics reports only 60 percent of newborn boys nationally are circumcised, with the percentage dropping.

Thirteen years ago, Chuck Thompson began to research, obtain, and compile the feelings, experiences, and status of men regarding circumcision. In particular, he became intensely interested in the status of celebrities. Thompson gets information for his now lifelong study in several ways. He places ads in publications inviting people to share their experiences. He keeps a sharp eye open for information in biographies and other publications. He has "researchers" who have entered professional locker rooms and exclusive gyms to make observations. Plus he has contacts who have worked at movie studios in wardrobe. Some write-in respondents had known a celebrity in high school. Others claim to have had sexual relationships with a celebrity.

Thompson believes his is the most accurate list of several available ones, and he constantly updates it as new facts emerge, preferably supplied by the subject himself. For example, the list was used on a *Phil Donahue Show*, and Donahue claimed he was incorrectly listed.

Thompson, who is circumcised, claims his interest in

circumcision started on the first day of kindergarten, when he discovered at the urinal that he was "different" from the two boys on either side of him. From that day on, he developed an insatiable curiosity as to whether every male he met was "cut" or "uncut."

Thompson says the emotional trauma of being "different" can last for years and fundamentally effects a man's outlook on life. He used stalls in the restroom up through high school, and never permitted anyone to see him nude. His project has served as a forum where men have been able to share their experiences and air their frustrations:

*"In the high school locker room, I got my share of derisive remarks and jests, like 'hey elephant trunk,' and 'skum skin,' etc. It was embarrassing. The coach suggested that it might be the best thing for me to be circumcised for comfort and cleanliness."*

*"In elementary school I was very aware of being different, and in junior high school I was called 'queer,' and felt that only normal, handsome, smart, straight guys were circumcised...In high school, five guys came up to me in gym and asked when I was going to get the 'growth and disease' removed from my cock.... As an adult, I took a guy home and after undressing, he told me that he 'couldn't have sex with that.'"*

*"I attended a school where almost all the boys were cut. Neither my parents nor anyone else bothered to explain to me why I was different. This was a source of deep concern and anxiety for me, and I went to almost any length to avoid being seen in the nude. When I reached 22, I had myself circumcised...."*

*"I felt as if I was the only person in the world who was like this and was very shy about it. I participated in lots of sports but hated getting undressed...I am very well-built, but I couldn't feel normal. When I was 16 years old, I met a doctor while hitch-hiking to the beach. He seduced me and eventually circumcised me."*

A growing number of "cut" men are indignant that they were circumcised as babies, and have a feeling they have missed out on one of life's pleasures. Examples:

*"I regret the loss of my foreskin. It was something of mine that was taken from me without my approval. I now prefer sex with partners who are uncut and wish that there was some way that my foreskin could be surgically restored. I have become an rabid voyeur, trying to see as many uncuts as I can."*

*"I am fascinated by foreskin, as it is so attractive. I enjoy seeing it and still wish I had my own. It's rude, but I tend to stare when it's available to view. I do often look at my perfect clip-job and wonder how much was removed, and how wonderful it would be to watch and feel*



*the head appear and disappear into its own skin, rather than into my hand. Something's missing."*

As they become adults, "uncut" boys find their status to be a plus. Some men seek them out as sex partners. One need merely check out the personals ads in gay publications to note how an "uncut" status is often featured.

Thompson's research project continues. So far his project has yielded over 1600 names of men involved in movies, TV, sports, music, government, and other "celebrity" occupations. The list of black men that follows was culled from Thompson's list and was augmented with other research.

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#### UNCIRCUMCISED

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Vida Blue, *Baseball player*  
Bill Cosby, *Comedian*  
Chris Dickerson, *1975 Mr. Olympia*  
Rosey Grier, *Football player, Artist*  
Richie Havens, *Singer*  
Jimi Hendrix, *Singer*  
Jesse Jackson, *Politician*  
Earvin "Magic" Johnson, *Basketball player*  
Martin Luther King, Jr., *Civil rights leader*  
Joe Louis, *Boxer*  
Johnny Mathis, *Singer*  
Greg Morris, *Actor*  
Eddie Murphy, *Comedian*  
Tony Pearson, *1977 Mr. America*  
Pele, *Soccer player*  
Charlie Pride, *Singer*  
Little Richard, *Singer*  
Mr. T, *Actor*  
Flip Wilson, *Comedian*

---

#### CIRCUMCISED

---

Muhammad Ali, *Boxer*  
Idi Amin, *Politician*  
Arthur Ashe, *Tennis player*  
Jim Brown, *Actor*  
Rod Carew, *Baseball player*  
Spencer Christian, *TV weatherman*  
Sammy Davis, *Entertainer*  
Kareem Abdul Jabbar, *Basketball player*  
Jackie Jackson, *Singer*  
Jermaine Jackson, *Singer*  
Marlon Jackson, *Singer*  
Michael Jackson, *Singer*  
Randy Jackson, *Singer*  
Tito Jackson, *Singer*  
Sugar Ray Leonard, *Boxer*  
Carl Lewis, *Athlete*  
Roger Mosley, *Actor*  
Yannick Noan, *Tennis player*  
Ken Norton, *Boxer*  
Brock Peters, *Actor*  
Ahmad Rashad, *Football player*  
O.J. Simpson, *Football player*  
Marc Singer, *Actor*  
Raymond St. Jacques, *Actor*  
Billy Dee Williams, *Actor*  
Paul Winfield, *Actor*

*Thompson would like to hear from anyone who can supply additional material for his continuing survey. You can obtain his complete list and samples of his newsletter by sending \$6 to Box 691024, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

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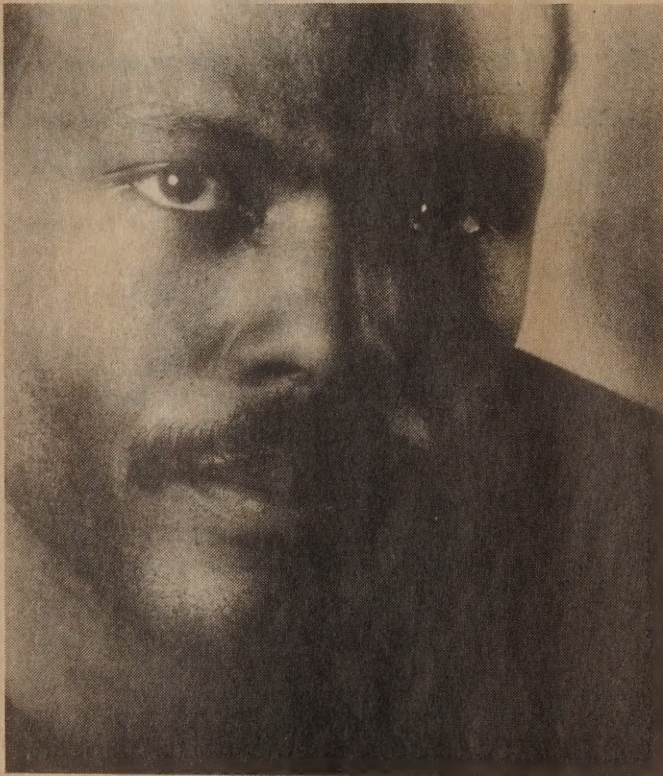
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# Joe Beam

*Death claims author of In the Life;  
second volume to be published posthumously*

**Compiled by Alan Bell**



Joe Beam. Photo by Sharon Farmer.

Celebrated author Joseph Fairchild Beam, the editor of *In the Life*, died of heart failure due to AIDS at his Philadelphia home December 27, 1988, just three days before his 34th birthday. Beam had been depressed for a number of months over apparent career setbacks and, according to his family, had been ill for the last year with respiratory and stomach ailments.

Although the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office listed the cause of death as AIDS-related, a conclusive determination was impossible, according to a spokesman who wished to remain anonymous, because Beam had been dead for a week before he was found, and the body had begun to decompose. The Medical Examiner's Office was able to confirm, however, that Beam was HIV positive.

There had been wide-spread speculation that Beam's death was drug-related or that he had committed suicide, but both of these possibilities were ruled out by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Beam is known primarily for the collection of writing and artwork by black men he began assembling in 1985. It was published 18 months later under the title, *In the Life*.

Although a number of works had already been published by and about black lesbians, Beam's was the first modern anthology ever to focus on the experiences of black gay men.

In the book's introduction, he wrote, "The bottom line is this: We are black men who are proud and gay. What we offer is our lives, our loves, our visions....We are coming home with our heads held up high."

After the book's publication, Beam gave lectures and appeared at bookstores across the country, developing a reputation as an articulate and sensitive voice for the black gay community.

"For the first time in that book, black gay men got to tell about their lives and experiences in their own words. Joe was a pioneer," said James Roberts, a contributor who also worked with Beam on other projects.

"His book was a major contribution not only to the black gay community, but to the black community at large, which has often denied the existence of gays within it," said the Rev. Darlene Garner, a founding board member of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays.

Beam was the first editor of *Black/Out*, the national black gay and lesbian literary magazine, and served for three years on the board of directors of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. He also had worked as a columnist for *Au Courant*, and as a contributing editor for the magazine, *Blacklight*. His work has been published in *The Advocate*, *Gay Community News*, *Philadelphia Gay News*, *New York Native*, *Blackheart* and *Windy City Times*, as well as *Painted Bride Quarterly*.

"He was a national figure in the gay and lesbian world," said Ed Hermance, a friend and owner of Giovanni's Room, a Philadelphia bookstore.

"Joe was such a positive role model for black gay men and women alike," said Rev. Renee McCoy, executive director of NCBLG. "He had a gentle, frank spirit and was an inspiration to gays and lesbians at all levels, from all walks of life."

Essex Hemphill, a member of NCBLG and a contributor to *In the Life*, also spoke of the inspiration that Beam had provided: "The work that Joe did in the community as a whole—gay and lesbian, black and white—enriched the community in ways that have yet to manifest themselves. His life was a light for many of us. His book opened up an important dialogue among black gay men, and made us aware of the number of us out here."

Among his most memorable pieces at the Philadelphia Gay News was an extensive interview several years ago with the late civil rights leader Bayard Rustin. "Joe did excellent work—well-written and well-thought out," said managing editor Tommi Avicoli said. "...He was a very articulate voice speaking about the experience of being black and gay. A lot of people were moved by him."

Six feet tall, sturdy and mustachioed, with penetrating



eyes and a distinct assuredness, Beam had been a visible leader in the black gay community since the early 1980s. He had long been proud of being black. In his mid- to late 20s, he also made it clear that he was proud of being gay.

Though a leading advocate for causes important to gay blacks, Beam was not without personal struggles over the issues. He grew angry at injustice. To those who knew him well, he seemed at times tormented by society's slowness in accepting—even recognizing—gay blacks.

It was that frustration which triggered his landmark book. In 1984, he placed an advertisement in the *Philadelphia Gay News*, soliciting black gay writers with the words, "Visibility is survival." A collection of essays, poems, interviews and short stories, *In the Life* includes works by several recognized authors, but was primarily a volume by those largely unknown.

Beam poured himself into editing their manuscripts. In the book, he described his role: "Not only was I an editor, but often was a confidant and friend to the brothers who submitted their work. I listened to their stories of failed loves, tales of looking for employment...Time after time, their letters and phone calls catapulted me past moments of lethargy and depression. We supported each other."

It was on a personal level that many remembered Beam, describing him as a man who combined thoughtfulness with a lively spirit.

"What stands out was his openness and willingness to be present with people and give whatever he could, even at personal sacrifice," said Garner. Beam, who considered himself spiritual but not religious, used to attend her services at Metropolitan Community Church in Philadel-

phia as a gesture of support, Garner said.

Reared in West Philadelphia, the son of a bank guard and a school counselor, Beam attended St. Joseph School for Boys in Clayton, Delaware, and Malvern Preparatory School before graduating in 1972 from St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia. He earned a bachelor's degree from Franklin College of Indiana in 1976. Then he returned to Philadelphia to write.

Beam also worked in sales at several bookstores and as a waiter at several restaurants.

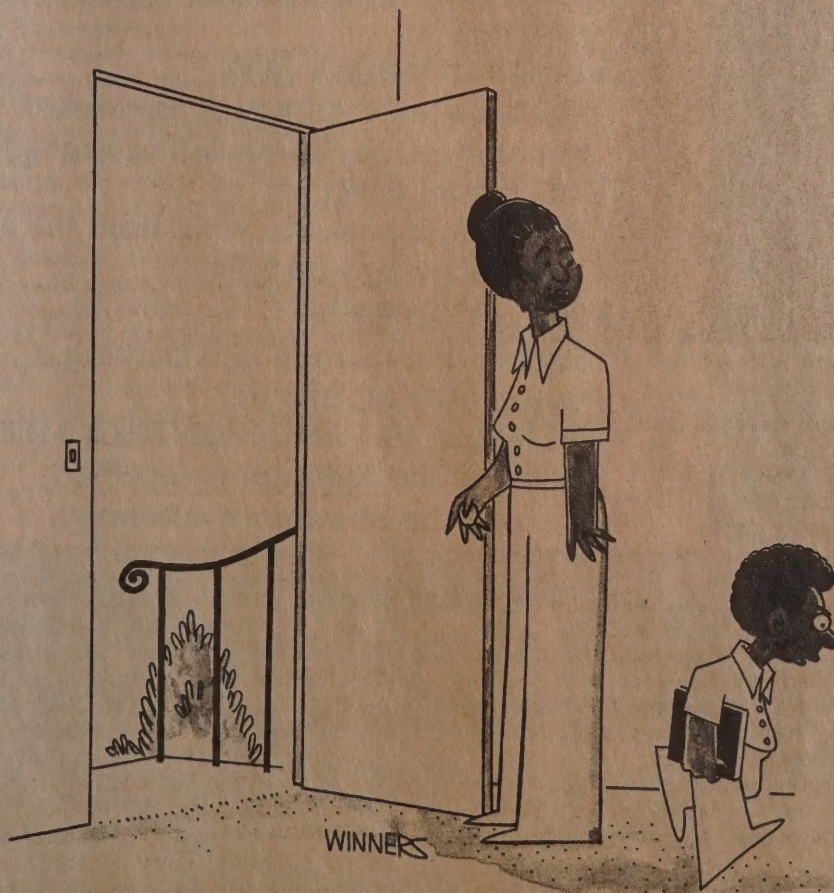
At the time of his death, Beam was compiling material for a second collection, *Brother to Brother*. According to his publisher, Sasha Alyson, "Joe already had made a great deal of progress on that book, and his parents were highly supportive of what he was doing. We still expect to publish it." "Brother to Brother" was the title of an essay Beam wrote for the first anthology, a piece he considered one of his best works.

Beam was a member of the Black Writers Guild and won several awards for his efforts.

Surviving are his parents, Dorothy and Sun F. Beam; a foster sister, Addie Lee; and a foster brother, Charles Saunders.

A Joseph Beam Memorial Scholarship Fund for creative writing has been established at Temple University. Contributions may be made in care of Marie Inyang, Esq., PSFS Building, 12 S. 12th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

*Substantial portions of this article were written by Donna St. George for the Philadelphia Inquirer, and appeared there first.*



"The new kid is straight."



# BEING ALIVE

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213.667.3262 Office hours: Mon-Fri NOON-7 PM Sat NOON-4 PM



# Community News

## Research Says Cokers See High AIDS Risk

CHICAGO (AP)—Drug abusers who inject cocaine are more likely to catch AIDS infections from the practice than those who shoot heroin, researchers found in a study of 633 addicts in San Francisco.

Injection of cocaine promotes more sharing of hypodermic needles than heroin injection because cocaine's briefer euphoria requires more doses—up to 10 a day, the researchers said.

"The cocaine association is news. This is the first time it's ever been reported," said Dr. Richard E. Chaisson, formerly of the University of California at San Francisco and now of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Chaisson and fellow researchers studied 633 heroin addicts enrolled in drug treatment programs in San Francisco from May 1986 to July 1987. About 60 percent of the addicts also injected cocaine.

Seventy-seven of the addicts in the study, or 12 percent, were HIV+, the researchers reported in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Among addicts who did not use cocaine at all, 8 percent were infected, Chaisson said.

Addicts who injected cocaine once a month had a 15 percent HIV infection rate, those who injected it weekly had a 21 percent infection rate, and those who injected it daily had a 28 percent infection rate, Chaisson said.

"There were striking increases in infection rate with increasing use of the drug," Chaisson said in a telephone interview. "That was not seen with heroin use in a similar pattern."

Intravenous drug abusers account for 20 percent of the more than 83,000 adult cases of AIDS reported to the national Centers for Disease Control since 1979. Experts believe HIV infection is spread among this group through blood residue on shared needles.

The study found that if addicts used cocaine regularly, they were more likely to share needles with many people. Increased usage was associated with a greater likelihood the addict had injected cocaine at a "shooting gallery," where people buy drugs and rent needles, Chaisson said.

"If someone goes to a shooting gallery, they pay a dollar and get a syringe. They have no idea how many people have used that needle," he said.

Chaisson said the government estimates that 900,000 people in this country abuse drugs by injecting them. He said he believes anywhere from 100,000 to 500,000 people inject cocaine, less than 10 percent of all people using the drug.

"Heroin is not the only problem or even the major problem," Chaisson said. "Cocaine has emerged as a more serious problem than heroin, in part because methadone is available to control heroine abuse, but nothing is available to control cocaine."

Chaisson said 95 percent of the subjects were able to reduce their heroin use with methadone, a drug substitute used in treatment programs to reduce the craving for heroin.

## Black Gay Performance Art Hits Los Angeles

By Chi Hughes

Los Angeles opened its doors to two of the East Coast's premiere performance artists, Essex Hemphill and Weyson Jones, with a three-day run at LACE entitled "Earth-life: A Theatre Concert." The evening was a mixture of prose, performance, music and photography.

Hemphill's poetry, heavily steeped in black gay male erotica and inner city lifestyles, provided social commentary on sex, poverty, oppression, love, violence, drag queens, AIDS, family and sensuality.

Avant garde musical accompaniment composed by Weyson Jones was performed on bass guitar, synthesizer and rhythm box. The evening also included slides from photos taken by Washington, D.C. photographer Sharon Farmer.

The show, which consisted of 25 individual works, included material on the brutal assault of a black woman in Washington, D.C. (Hemphill and Jones's hometown); "Brass Rail," a poem on the infamous gay bar in Washington, D.C.; and "Mi Padre," performed in Spanish and English in the call and response tradition, about a child's respect and admiration for "My Father." "Spirits" by Birago Diop, often sung by Sweet Honey in the Rock, was delivered in the latter segment of the concert in tribute to black/African ancestry.

Hemphill and Jones will release their first 45 rpm disc this spring on their Mega Watts label. In addition, they will be featured in an upcoming documentary on Langston Hughes entitled, *Looking for Langston*.

The performance at LACE was partially made possible through a grant from the National Performance Network.

## Black Literary Journal Seeks Submissions

*Black/Out*, the publication of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, is seeking articles for its spring issue. The theme of the issue, to be edited by Angela Bowen of Boston, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan of Los Angeles and Colin Robinson of New York, will be "We Are Family."

Submissions are welcome on topics such as: role models in the black gay and lesbian community, relationships with our families of origin, relationships between black lesbians and gay men, black gay fathers and lesbian mothers. Submissions may be articles, short stories, journal entries, line drawings or poetry.

The deadline for submissions, which should be typed, doubled-spaced, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, is February 15, 1989. Submissions should be sent to Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, Box 4811, Culver City, CA 90231. All other correspondence should be directed to Angela Bowen, *Black/Out*, Box 426, Cambridge MA 02139.





Chaka Kahn. Photo by Matthew Rolston.



Taurean Blaque

## Gay Conference in Los Angeles Only Weeks Away

By Alan Smithee

Activity hastens for the planning committee of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference as the confab enters the final weeks of preparation. Over 1000 people are expected to attend the conference which will be held February 17-20, 1989 at the University Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley is scheduled to give the opening address Saturday morning.

The theme of the conference, which is being sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, is "Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing for the 21st Century."

Scheduled events include workshops, seminars, luncheons, a banquet, a concert and a dance. Allied activities include an all-day workshop on AIDS in the black gay community called the "AIDS Institute"; a strategy session for representatives of local and national black gay and lesbian organizations called the "Leadership Roundtable"; and a benefit luncheon for the National Minority AIDS Council.

Among the workshops to be offered are "How to Get 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Status," "Women Spirituality," "How to Start a Business," "Grant Writing," "How to Do Grassroots Organizing," "Careers and the Closet," "How to Do Political Lobbying," "Depression and How to Cope," "How to Develop a Relationship," "How to Do Fundraising," "How to Look for a Job" and "Lesbian Relationships." More are scheduled.

Chaka Kahn, Jeannie Tracey and Kim Miller will appear at Catch One Friday night in "You Made Us Feel Mighty Real," a program billed as a tribute to the late

Sylvester.

Taurean Blaque and J'ai will appear at a banquet and dance Saturday night to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the University Hilton. J'ai will perform in a revue called "An Evening at the Cotton Club," a musical tribute to the black divas of the blues.

Whoopi Goldberg and Natalie Cole will appear at Sunday's benefit luncheon for the National Minority AIDS Council, as will Council Co-Chairs California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters and Rev. Carl Bean.

Rev. Renee McCoy will lead Sunday morning worship at the Unity Fellowship Church.

Registration for the conference is \$70. Registration for the conference and the AIDS Institute is \$100. Tickets to the National Minority AIDS Council Luncheon are \$25 for registrants and \$35 for non-registrants. Conference registration includes Friday evening entertainment, the Saturday evening banquet and all workshop sessions.

The conference planning committee has devised a work exchange program allowing people to volunteer their time during the conference in lieu of paying the registration fee. Conference planning committee meetings are held Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Minority AIDS Project, 5149 West Jefferson, Los Angeles.

The conference planning committee has also created two special funds, a scholarship fund and a people with AIDS fund. This money is set aside to sponsor people with special needs and PWAs who otherwise would be unable to attend the conference. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 213-667-2549 or write, BGLLF, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027.



# Politico Nate Holden Puts Black Gay Kids on Hold

By Cornell Makonnen

Efforts to persuade Councilman Nate Holden (L.A. 10th Dist.) to approve a loan from a city agency for two group homes for gay youths have apparently failed. Teresa DeCrescenzo, Executive Director and founder of Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services has indicated that she will attempt to obtain funding elsewhere, since the Community Redevelopment Agency will not lend her the money necessary to maintain the homes without Holden's approval.

Founded in 1984, GLASS owns two houses in South Central Los Angeles for displaced lesbian and gay minors. Eight of the current young residents are black, four are Hispanic and one is white. Most were referred by the County Social Services Department or other non-profit agencies. Several were previously homeless or facing eviction by anti-gay or AIDS-panicked parents.

Necessary repairs to the two housing facilities were undertaken by DeCrescenzo on the understanding that the CRA would loan GLASS \$245,000 to meet renovation costs. The CRA often makes such loans on easy terms to entities trying to upgrade services in minority communities. However, councilmembers must approve projects in their districts before the CRA will fund them.

Councilman Mike Woo discussed the project with Holden last October, when Holden is said to have agreed to transmit his approval to the CRA. But later, alleges DeCrescenzo, he declined to write the promised letter of support.

Faced with mounting bills, DeCrescenzo and her staff urgently sought to meet with Holden. While promising to inspect the two facilities personally in the near future,

Holden informed GLASS that he had several concerns. He was assured that although GLASS accepts HIV-positive juveniles, neither facility was or would become an AIDS hospice, an apparent concern of the Councilman's. Although DeCrescenzo is white, more than half of GLASS's staff are persons of color, and the input of minorities, including Holden's staff members, had been solicited prior to and during GLASS's development, according to DeCrescenzo.

Efforts by Woo, State Senator Diane Watson, West Hollywood Councilman Steve Schulte and Minority AIDS Project head Rev. Carl Bean all failed to persuade the Councilman to sign off. Holden is said to have voiced concerns about the size of salaries for DeCrescenzo and others, and the inability of GLASS to provide adequate collateral for the loan. (CRA has expressed no such reservations.)

But his overriding opposition apparently rests upon promises he is alleged to have made to South Central residents that he would oppose establishment of new group homes. However, DeCrescenzo points out that the GLASS homes are not new, and have maintained good relations with their neighbors.

DeCrescenzo, a former board president of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, has said that she will pursue federal funding. Meanwhile, one of GLASS's two houses faces foreclosure proceedings and the state has imposed fines totaling \$2000 for failure to make required repairs.

For more information or to make a donation, call GLASS at 213-653-3496.



*"The bad news is that the house is a mess, but the good news is that all of us guys decided over the weekend that we were gay and I'm about to slam the door in your face."*



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NO CREDIT...OK  
BANKRUPTCY...OK  
NO CO-SIGNER...OK  
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CHARGE OFFS...OK  
NEW ON THE JOB...OK



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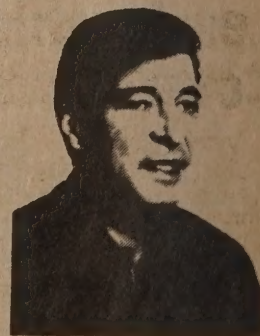
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# List Complete Conference AIDS Institute Schedule

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference will open with the AIDS Institute February 17, 1989 at the University Hilton. The all-day session is specifically designed to provide information to individuals providing AIDS services and is also open to people wanting more information on the numerous facets of AIDS work from funding to support groups.

The following is the complete AIDS Institute schedule.

## **Commencement Plenary, 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.**

Introductions: Phill Wilson

Keynote Speaker: Warren Hewett, Office of Minority Health

## **Session One, 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.**

Creating Relationships with Foundations (double session): Midge Taylor, Tim Offutt, Liberty Hill, Michele Prichard

Developing and Managing a Volunteer Program: Bobby Smith

Developing Support Groups: Cleante Stain

Managing Hospices: Chi Hughes

Managing Management Program for Black Clients: To be announced

## **Session Two, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

Creating Relationships with Foundations (continued)

Starting an AIDS Program: Reggie Williams, U.S. Conference of Mayors

Grant Writing: Al Cunningham

Negotiating and Working with Federal Funders (question and answer): Gil Gerald

Developing Educational Strategies for Black Gay Men: George Bellinger, Jr., Craig Harris, Curtis Washington, Phill Wilson

## **Luncheon, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Introductions: To be announced

Speaker: Dr. Benny Primm

## **Session Three, 2:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.**

General Administration of an AIDS Program for Blacks: Tim Offutt, Veneita Porter

Working with/in the Church: Rev. Rene McCoy, Rev. Carl Bean

AIDS Services for Addicted PWAs: Dr. Herman Maisonet

Education Strategies for Black Women: Colevia Carter

Principles of Fundraising 101 (double session): CDC, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Rodney Carter, Midge Taylor

Program Evaluation: Dr. Stephan Thomas

## **Session Four, 3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

AIDS Programs in the Prisons: Colevia Carter

Principles of Fundraising 101 (continued)

Knowledge, Attitude and Behavior Studies: Amanda Hamilton-Houston

The Media: Effective Methods of AIDS Education in Black Communities: Al Cunningham

Case Management: Terri More

Starting a PWA Coalition: Larry Ellis, Jerome Boyce, David Holmes

## **BWMT Elects Officers**

Rene Seidel and Guy Hubbard were elected co-chairmen of Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles January 28, 1989 at the group's annual meeting held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. Also elected were Les Amer, treasurer; John Dick, secretary; and Mark Denton and Diamond Murray, members-at-large.

**Next Month  
in BLK  
What Gay People Need  
to Know about Income Tax  
PLUS  
BLK Interviews Porno Star  
Randy Cochran**

## **Black Lesbian Group Retreats to Sausalito**

Nia, an 11-member Bay Area black lesbian collective, sponsored a gathering for black lesbians at the Headlands Institute in Sausalito November 18 through 20, 1988. The event, which was called "Defining Ourselves," grew out of the Black Caucus at the 1987 Lesbians of Color Conference in San Francisco.

Over 100 women attended workshops such as "Black Transculturalism," "Being Round and Wonderful," "Black Lesbian Culture," "Incest: Speak Your Truth," "Fear: Terminal Cool," "Sexuality and Aging," "Lesbians of Color and AIDS" and "Goddess Spirituality and the Lesbian."

"Many women came eager, but fearful," said Asungi, a Los Angeles artist who attended the event. "But as the hours passed, there was a definite feeling of sisterhood, sharing and kindred spirits among the group."

"I felt totally positive about being a black lesbian," she went on, "and awaking to the fact that there is a black lesbian culture. Many women have kept in contact as an alternative to the bars."

Nia, which means "purpose" in Swahili, designed the conference as a support mechanism for black lesbians in the Bay Area and on the West Coast.



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

When radical faeries go guppie, apparently they don't have to go far to retrieve that instinctive gay flair for partyin' and panache.

Supper at the posh bash in question consisted of *din-don cuit au buffet*, *nee* basted turkey and pasta ("Serve yourself, honey, the Dark Meat's goin' fast"). The party was peopled with the "Do you have a card?" set, who'd have networked each other to death if they hadn't already sold each other tickets to every lesbian or gay fundraiser scheduled through autumn. Sprinkled amidst the politically correct champagne conversation were whispered references to Palm Springs timeshares, Cajun brunches and yes, junk bonds.

Invitations to the *soiree intime* summoned guests to join **Phill Wilson** and **Chris Brownlie** at their ramshackle-chic home in celebration of "nine years of commitment and two years with AIDS," a sweet 'n sour acknowledgement of how love can thrive amidst anguish.

For an old radical like Brownlie, this gathering of gay glitteratti must have seemed an odd place to end up after his years of anti-establishmentarianism. But success is the ultimate objective of any movement, and celebration is as much encouragement to as reward for success.

Present at the December 18 party was a swarm of black lesbian and gay activists including **Dennis Odums**, (first black) co-chair of the board of directors of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center; **Deborah Johnson**, and her Latina lover, **Zandy Rolon**, co-founders of the Motivational Institute (and victors of the famous Papa Choux Restaurant lawsuit, which established that same-sex couples cannot be discriminated against in restaurants); **Charles Stewart**, chief deputy to State Senator Diane Watson; **Chi Hughes**, former deputy director of GLCSC, now project director of AIDS Hospice Foundation, and her Pilipina lover, **Honey Ranario**; and **Kevin Jones** of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

Some of the other luminaries present included **Torie Osborn** (first female) executive director of GLCSC and her significant other, Attorney **Sheila James Kuehl**, formerly "Zelda" on the old *Dobbie Gillis Show*; **Michael Weinstein**, founder and executive director of AHF and his lover, **Albert Ruiz**; **Jean Conger**, executive director of Southern California for Understanding; **John Brown**, former executive director of GLCSC; **Sandy Dwyer**, publisher of *The News*; **Doug Noble**, deputy state attorney and former co-chair of BWMT/LA; and **Bill Weinberger**, past president of Lawyers for Human Rights, subject of a recent *Herald-Examiner* article on out-of-the-closet gay professionals.

You know the hosts. Or you should. Wilson is the erstwhile co-chair of BWMT/LA and founder of BGLLF which produces the annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. Wilson, 32 and bearing a more than passing resemblance to O.J. Simpson, is a consultant on gay, black and AIDS issues for several government and private concerns.

Brownlie, a boardmember of AHF, is the namesake of a just-opened hospice, and author of the insightful "Liberation Politics" column in *The News*. Brownlie has become Mr. PWA in the local media; whenever a pithy comment on life with AIDS in an uncaring cosmopolis is needed, the press will solicit a Brownlie quote. It was his

impassioned testimony before an L.A. County Commission which is widely credited with embarrassing the County's unsympathetic Board of Supervisors into funding care for PWAs.

They tied the knot nine years ago in Chicago, and with the help of some of Southern California's Best and Brightest, tightened it a little bit last December.

**SPEAKING OF THINGS GETTING TIGHT**, looks like **Bevan Dufty** will soon be out of a job. But if he knew, Bevan never let on during his jammin' New Year's Day soul food party that his boss, Councilman **Zev Yaroslavsky**, was about to dump his foolhardy campaign to supplant **Tom Bradley** as Mayor in the April 4th election. **Bevan**, the first black Co-Chair of MECLA, L.A.'s gay PAC, has been on the stump for Zev since August as a paid campaigner. But some of us hope he will now re-enlist with ex-boss Congressman **Julian Dixon**, and help ready him to become L.A. County's first black Supervisor.

**SHORTIES**. Was it really necessary for **Arsenio Hall** to wonder out loud on one of his recent shows if **James Brown** would become "the homecoming queen of Cellblock H"?...**Patti LaBelle** saluted **Sylvester** with an AIDS benefit concert on behalf of the Shanti Project in San Francisco January 20...The diva at the Minority AIDS Project continues to gather awards from practically everywhere. Christopher Street West, the West Hollywood parade people, have made **Rev. Carl Bean** their Man of the Year for 1989. He joins the likes of **Troy Perry**, **Leonard Matlovich**, **Dorr Legg** and **Eric Rofes**, a few past recipients of the award. The Valley Business Alliance gave Rev a plaque, probably for reminding them of how hard it is for the rich to get into Heaven. And the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church awarded him their Lazarus Project Award which goes annually to the person who did the most to effect "reconciliation between the gay and the non-gay worlds." Anyway, he received his plaque at a Sheraton Townhouse banquet January 29. Glad some Anglo gay organizations are giving Carl his due now, 'cuz we remember when only *we* thought he was special and they groaned to see him coming.



"I've got ten inches, a big house, a big car and lots of money, but he'd still rather have L.L. Cool J."



# Community Directory

Please let BLK know of any changes or additions that should be made to this Community Directory.

## BARS AND BATHS

### Annex\*

835 S. LaBrea Ave.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-671-7323

### Basgo's\*

3909 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-664-1929

### The Californian Club Nu-Vo\*\*\*\*†

1755 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90062  
213-299-2929

### Caper Room\*\*\*

244 S. Market St.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-677-0403  
Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male Exotic Dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free Buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.

### Catch One\*\*\*

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-1159  
Sundays 4-8 p.m. Women's Tea Dance; Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.

### Cottage\*\*\*\*†

5050 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-935-5540

### Cover Girl Club\*\*\*\*†

9300 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90230  
213-870-1595  
Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)

### Eagle\*

7864 Santa Monica Blvd.  
W. Hollywood, CA 90046  
213-654-3252

### Griff's\*

4216 Melrose Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-660-0889  
Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.

### Horizon\*\*\*

3416 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Tuesdays Welfare Night

### Jewel's Room\*\*\*

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-1159

Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.

### Midtowne Spa\*\*

615 S. Kohler St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
213-680-1838

Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price, 8 p.m. until Dancing downstairs; Wednesdays 8 p.m. Drawing for \$50 first prize; Fridays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs, 10 p.m. Erotic dance show; Saturdays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs.

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8911 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90069  
213-652-7596

### Study\*\*

1723 N. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-464-9551  
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## RESTAURANTS

### Carriage Trade\*

8225 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
213-655-6425

### Casita de Campo\*

1920 Hyperion Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-662-4255

### Crest\*

3725 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
213-660-3645

\*Slightly black

\*\*Significantly black

\*\*\*Almost all black

\*\*\*\*Whites are shot on sight

†Mixed gay and straight

## ORGANIZATIONS

### Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group

168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201  
Los Angeles, CA 90008  
Saturdays 5 p.m.

### Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 6 p.m.



**Alcoholism Center for Women**

1147 S. Alvarado St.

Los Angeles, CA 90006

213-381-7805

Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**

Box 29812

Los Angeles, CA 90027

213-667-2549

Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90019

213-274-3398

1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Jack**

Box 83515

Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515

213-338-1516

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**

1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110

W. Hollywood, CA 90069

213-652-3894

2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together**

Los Angeles Chapter

7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136

West Hollywood, CA 90046

213-664-4716

Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering Committee Meeting (location varies)

**Black and White Men Together**

National Organization

584 Castro St. #140

San Francisco, CA 94114

415-431-1976

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90019

213-664-0234, 213-274-3398

**Gentlemen Concerned**

Box 712298

Bunker Hill Station

Los Angeles, CA 90071

**Makeda**

1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129

Los Angeles, CA 90016

213-935-4105

Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" Black Women Support Group.

**Minority AIDS Project**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90019

213-936-4949

Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking Support Group; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS Support Group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); Fridays 1 p.m. Family Members of AIDS Patients Support Group.

**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**

19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.

Detroit, MI 48219

313-537-0484

**United Fellowship Church**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90019

213-936-4949

Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship Service; Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study; Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**

4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B

Compton, CA 90221

213-639-3068

**Womyn of Colors**

1213 N. Highland Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90038

213-464-7400, ext. 205

Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**

9001 Keith Ave.

West Hollywood, CA 90069

213-274-3398

**Z and Z Productions**

4153 Garden Ave.

Los Angeles, CA 90039

213-663-6340



*"It's not what you think, honey. She's a lesbian  
and I brought her home for you."*

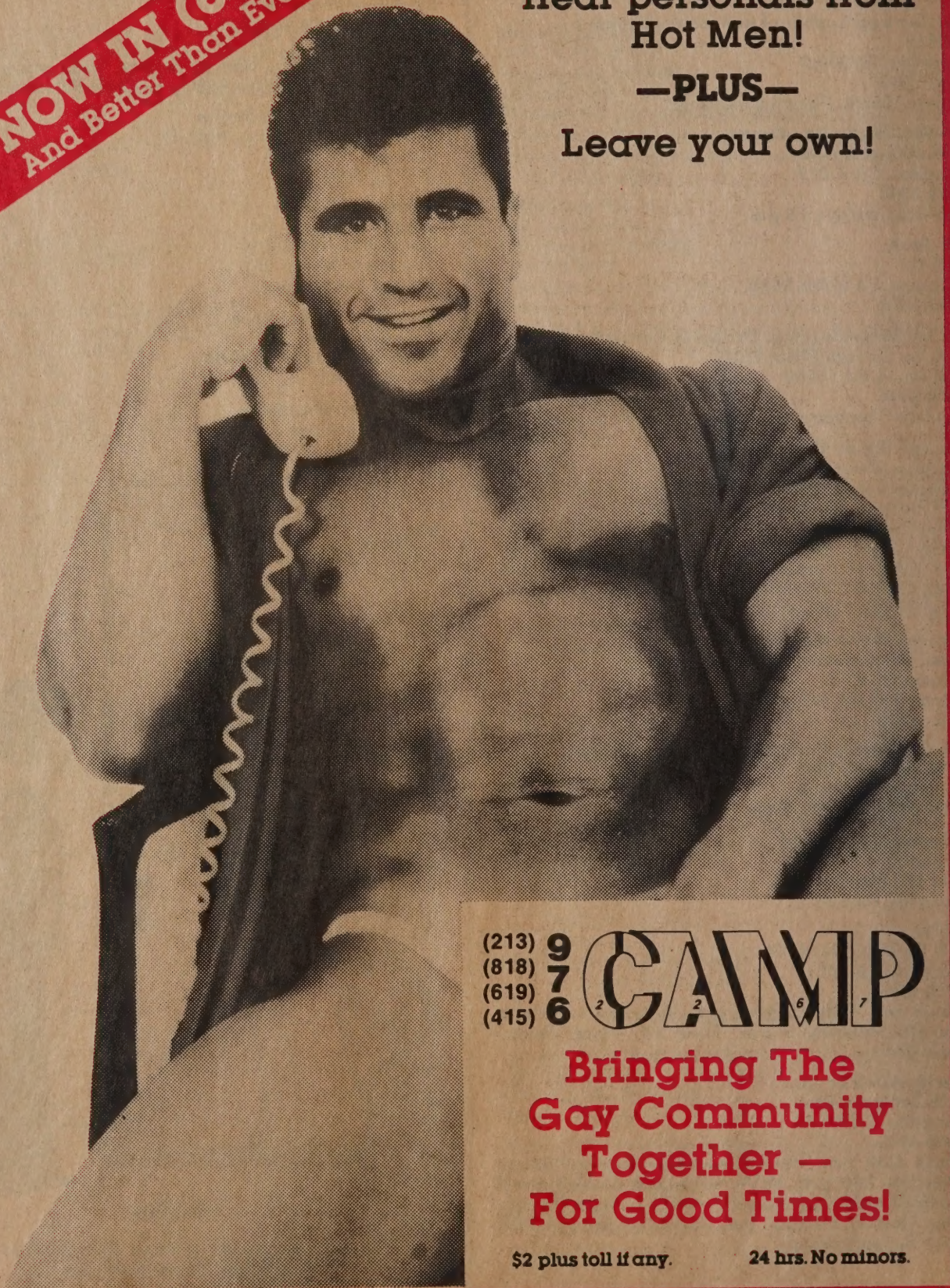


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## EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Black gay male seeking light cleaning jobs. Reasonable rates possible other things. Call 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Charles 213-622-9635. (4)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

BLK needs people in the following categories. ADVERTISING SALES: Two people to sell advertising space on a commission basis. NEWS: Reporters to handle special assignments. All positions part time. Women especially encouraged to apply. BLK, Box 83812, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Call Alan at 213-410-0808. (TF)

Blackstar II. The agency of the stars is now representing the new generation of huge black men. 213-460-6309.

## WANTED

Phallic Science Church needs: rolltop desk, used/new legal and letter file cabinet (two drawers to three drawers), and a photographer for nude models and videos. Write C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Your nude black and white photos welcomed. (TF)

## FOR SALE

1975 BMW, great condition. Must sell now. \$2700 or best offer. 213-665-3479. Jerry. (3)

1973 Mercury Montego MX BRO. Red with white interior. Runs good and very dependable. 8-cylinder with air conditioning. Needs radio and vinyl top. Interested? Call me for test run evenings. \$600 or best offer. Dennis 213-731-3659. (TF)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Black actor, musician, very good looking, former gourmet cook and property manager seeks room and board in exchange for household duties. References on request. Call Bert 818-888-5015, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. only.

Black and clean to share small bachelor apt. very near ocean in Venice. \$150 wk. Very nice, many extras. Call anytime 213-396-4761. Sincere, masculine, good looking.

Blk man w/ ocean vu vacation timeshare condo for sale. Must sell quickly. Keith at 213-305-7032. (TF)

## MODELS

Black College Jock. 24 years old, 6'1", 170 lbs., hung, cut and thick. Safe and clean. Into most scenes. Call Lee at 213-739-8781.

Hot black man, 10" hung, 31 years, 5'10", 155 lbs., hard body, safe in LA, Gardena area. In \$40, out \$50. Call Dave 213-779-6829. 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

## MASSEURS

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Hands: Rick: An extraordinary guy to meet. Chippendale masseur and physical trainer. Reach for the best and enjoy it. 818-506-6821. (Male and female.) (3)

## PERSONALS

Attractive, sincere French guy, 29, 5'11", 175, muscular, uncut, seeks tall, massive, hunky, black bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for friendship. Box 456, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90046 (4)

Blond bottom, 6'4", 200, 45; wants thin 18-28. 213-281-6138. (6)

Black, black and pretty brown males: A sincere GBM, age 47 (looks 35), 5'7", 219, is looking for a friend into clean living. I like solid-built, masculine, black males, one-on-one, non-effeminate, intelligent and caring. D.P., Box 84174, Los Angeles, CA 90073. (3)

18 yr. butch GWM seeks young, muscular, masculine BM. Steven, 15167 Magnolia Blvd., Suite D, Sherman Oaks, 91403. Enclose a picture please. (Will be returned.) (3)

Attractive GBM, 28, very lonely, seeks masculine GM, 30-45 years for dating relationship must be warm, sincere, able to travel. Photo a plus. Brent Harris, 2800 Broadway #3, Box 118, Sacramento, CA 95817. (TF)

Athletic black male, 5'10", solid build, seeks other black men who are athletic, masculine, in good physical shape and mature in spirit. Must be into safe sex only. Call and leave message. 213-750-6361. (TF)

A very handsome middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6:00 p.m. (3)

TLC for gentle BM. Lonely? Looking for someone who cares? Tall, slender, gentle WM, 43, dark hair and eyes, HIV negative, seeks slim, av-blk BM under 45 for romance, and drug-free, safe & sane good times. Interests include foreign travel, piano, photography, classical music, the arts. Interested in meeting? Write: 11020 Ventura Blvd. #118, Studio City, CA 91604. (3)

I love black men. Let's start with a letter. Me: Latin man, 28, 5'6", 130 lbs., 28" waist, smooth body. You: black, masculine, big, any age. Picture please. (Will return.) Write to: Carlos Alonso, 1770 N. Highland Ave. #644, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (4)

Blond hunk seeks young thin top. Box 75441, LA 90075. (6)

WM, 38, seeks BM 22-42 for one-to-one. R.F., Box 1247, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. (3)

Attractive GWM, twenty-something, seeks masculine GBM, twenty or thirty-something, for loving relationship. We are



healthy, caring, intelligent, fun, safe. Call Rick, 213-668-0233. (3)

White boy, 29, 6', 180, seeks large, muscular, dominant Black Master to teach my bottom Black Discipline. Safe sex is a must. Box 70691, Pasadena, CA 91107. (4)

Puerto Rican, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs., seeking daytime masculine black-Latins hung fat to please. Willie 213-657-2539. (6)

Zachary: formerly Wherehouse, formerly Lyman Place. Where are you? Please write: DK, Box 42294, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (3)

GWM, dominant dad, handsome, 60, top seeks creative sucker under 45, any race. Hairy, a plus. No booze/drugs. Photo/phone. Box 155, 8721 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (4)

Seduce Me: Husky Scandinavian, blue-eyed blond, brd/-must; 40, 6', 210#, pasvly domnt, cigarette smoker. Seek relationship w/stable G/A, F/A/P, 27-37 man w/dark gdlks, gdbld. Fun, good (safe) sex. Future. Photo & phone: DK, Box 42294, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (3)

Black, Latin or Asian man wanted to hang out with WM, 39. We share these traits: non-smoker, straight-appearing, health-oriented, physically-active, self-reliant, responsible, romantic, sensual. Art 213-674-9032 anytime.

Good looking professional Latin male seeks boyfriend for dating, safe sex, possible lover. Me: 43, 5'6", 150 lbs., hot bottom. You: 30-45, hot, hung top looking for a real relationship. Masculine and in-shape only. Black and Latins + +. Call evenings. 213-258-6318.

I want black top. GWM, 5'9", 160 lbs. seeks good looking, well hung black man who likes to fuck (condom). Call Raymond 213-382-3186.

BM, 47 years old, 5'8", 140 lbs. seeks friendship. 213-732-8591. Robert.

Good looking black Sagittarius 5'10", 145 lbs., looking for a good looking masculine Leo or Aries, 34 to 40 years young, 5'10" up. Let^s share life together. Coty 213-755-8848. (3)

Hot white sucker, 32, seeks blacks 50+. B.B., Box 10501, Glendale, CA 91209-3501.

Young black wanted. You: 18+, small, thin and hairless, in need of caring father-image and possible lover. Me: 40, handsome top, who wants cute buddy and friend. Call 213-936-0200, ext 5011.

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Black man, masculine, interested in meeting intelligent and comical other black males for conversation and good times. Chuck 213-382-6943. (TF)

24-year-old, 5'7", small athletic build, seeks relationship with caring, intelligent, non-effeminate man. Write E. Christo, Box 71123, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (TF)

Sincere GBM, age 26, 6'5", 215 lbs., looking for a good "safe" friend. Masculine types of close or similar stature please respond. If you love tennis, good music, and the movies, plus the companionship of another gay brother, write Michael J., 7549 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046. (TF)

Hot, attractive, 39-year-old male, outgoing and intelligent, seeks masculine, mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Call C.B., 714-682-4685, Riverside, California. (TF)



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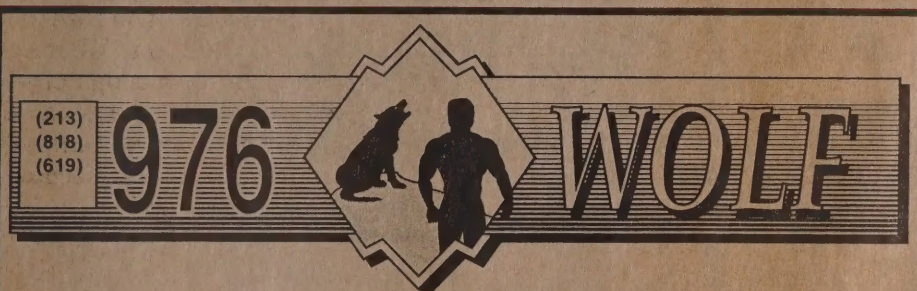
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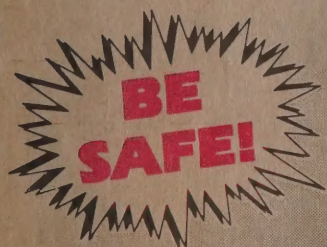


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# BLK

Number 3, February 1989





# LAPIS

## *Creativity Series for Lesbians of Color*

February 11, 1989

**"Writing as a Spiritual/Creative Inlet"**

**Facilitator: Marilyn Cruz**

Writing is an extremely powerful medium to discover and uncover ourselves as creative, whole women. The journey within will be gently facilitated using visualizations and writing exercises.

February 18, 1989

**"We are the Earth: Images of our Bodies in Clay"**

**Facilitator: Venice Peddicord**

Our concept of beauty and images of women's bodies will be translated into the clay; in essence, creating ourselves.

February 25, 1989

**"Lesbian Sexuality: Eroticizing Safe Play for Lesbians"**

**Facilitator: Laura Ramos**

Utilizing visuals and a dialogue format, we will be exploring on of the most creative aspects of ourselves as women, our sexuality. Safe Sex Play for Lesbians will be discussed within this context.

March 4, 1989

To be announced.

March 11, 1989

**"Creating Power Bundles"**

**Facilitator: Rosalie Ortega**

Women will have the opportunity to create physical affirmations. Please bring personal objects.

The workshops will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Milagros Valdes for information and pre-registration at (213) 381-7805

**Cost:** \$5 donation fee for supplies is requested at each session. No one denied service because of inability to pay.

**ACW**

1147 S. Alvarado Street • Los Angeles, CA 90006





# Calendar

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1989

Trip to Las Vegas sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Leave from Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA at 7 a.m. Return to Los Angeles Sunday at 10 p.m. \$25 includes transportation and hotel. For more information, call Gene at 213-298-0656.

Bowling for Dollars sponsored by Unity Fellowship Church. 3-6 p.m. Midtown Bowl, 4645 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. \$4.50 per person entry fee. Free shoe rental. Proceeds to Unity Fellowship Center. For more information, call Valerie at 213-759-1585.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1989

Moonlight Roller Rink Party sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 5110 San Fernando Rd., Glendale, CA. 7:30 p.m. \$5 including skates.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1989

Romantic Videos Night sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 540 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA. 7:30 p.m. Call 213-661-8657 between 7-9 p.m. for more information.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1989

Craig Lee, a former editor of L.A. Weekly, and Vaginal Creme Davis, formerly a singer in the Afro Sisters group, will read from their own works of poetry at A Different Light, 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 7 p.m. Free. 213-668-0629.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1989

Charity Basketball Game sponsored by the Women's Committee of Unity Fellowship Church. YMCA, 3820 Santa Rosalia, Los Angeles, CA. 4-5:30 p.m. \$3. Special guests will include Former Harlem Globetrotter Joyce Walker and USC Alumni Jamaiia Bond, Kalan Wright and Yolanda Fletcher. Male members of the church will serve as cheerleaders (complete with pom-poms) and will provide half-time entertainment.

Red and White Valentine's Ball at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 8 p.m.-3 a.m. Roses for early arrivals. Cash prizes for best dressed.

HIV+ Support Group Pot Luck sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 1614 Silverlake Blvd, Los Angeles, CA. 4 p.m.

Special Valentine's Day Male Exotic Show at Caper Room, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA. 10:30 p.m. \$3.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. AIDS Institute; 6-8 p.m. Reception at Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA; 8 p.m. "A Tribute to Sylvester" concert starring Chaka Kahn, Jeannie Tracey and Kim Miller at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Con-

ference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration; 9 a.m.-noon Opening session; Noon-1:30 p.m. Lunch for PWAs; 1:30-5:30 p.m. Workshop sessions; 7 p.m.-1 a.m. Banquet and dancing with special guests Ja'i and Taurean Blaque.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Continues through February 20. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 9-10:30 a.m. Church service at Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Workshop sessions; 1-3 p.m. Luncheon sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council with special guests Whoopi Goldberg and Natalie Cole; 3-4 p.m. Closing session.

Open house and social reception sponsored by Black Jack on the occasion of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. The Regency Plaza Hotel, 7940 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 7 p.m.-midnight. Free. Non-sexual. Open to non-Black Jack members as well as non-conference participants. 213-338-1516.

Mardi Gras Party at Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. After hours.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989

1989 National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Last day. University Hilton Hotel, 3540 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leadership roundtable.

# BLK

Number 3, February 1989

*Edited and published by Alan Bell. Editorial staff:* L. Paul Davis, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Harvey Huggins, Chi Hughes, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen, Jarvis D. Moore, Charles Stewart, Christine Tripp. *Photographic staff:* Bill Doggett, Bob Finney, Terry Johnson, Nathan Turner. *Advertising staff:* Gene Cornelius. *Business staff:* Howard McPhatter.

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Cover photograph: Ja'i

Cartoons courtesy Ebony Magazine.  
New captions by BLK.



# J'ai

*The lady sings the blues*

**By Mark Haile**





J'ai tilts back her head and laughs. She's getting used to people being amazed that a young, beautiful singer with such a positive outlook on life could be so thoroughly devoted to the blues.

"The blues are my life," she admits. That much seems natural, being born into a musical family, her father and uncle performing with legends, the likes of Billie Holiday, Lionel Hampton, B.B. King and Dizzie Gillespie.

J'ai was singing before she could walk, writing her first song at 10 years of age. Upbeat and confident, she radiates the same warmth up close that fans know to expect from her on stage. The loyal following that has sprung up across Los Angeles has been treated to an artist who insists on collaborating with her audience.

"I need it!" she exclaims. "I need that interaction. It's my energy. It's a gift to be able to communicate with an audience like that."

Skilled as an actress, singer, radio and television personality, J'ai could easily rocket to stardom as a pop singer. Why choose such a demanding and specialized sound as the blues?

"It's rooted across America—it's our heritage!" she responds. "It's the truest form of American music. I want to bring the blues back." How could she make people relate to the blues in the era of rap music? "Blues are universal," J'ai explains. "Every woman, and every man, too, will relate. If you've ever had a broken heart, or were embarrassed in school when you were six years old...you've had the blues." She points out that the blues are the voices of every day life, good and bad, challenging the misconception of blues as the cry of the victimized and the downtrodden.

"My blues are definitely joyous. It's all done in fun. I want to tell people, look at the blues from the fun side of life! These are the things going on in the world, and this is what we can do about it."

J'ai stresses positive thinking and self-confidence in the songs she writes. "New Day Blues" brings out the influence of the great blues singers whom she studies intensely. From Ida Cox and Ma Rainey to Alberta Hunter Janis Joplin, J'ai researches the styles and forms of the women who paved the way for an independent singer with a vision.

"It makes me more than happy to sing the blues. Who I am is the type of music that I sing. If you believe in yourself, that's when everything happens for you," she asserts.

For J'ai, it has been happening very quickly. During her second professional performance, she had the good fortune to have Teddy Everest, blues guitarist to Billie Holliday, on stage with her. Since her successful European debut, J'ai has performed locally in such clubs as the Cinegrill, At My Place, Bon Appetit and the Rose Tattoo. She has proven as adept at performing for thousands as in intimate settings, as by her appearance at the West Hollywood and Sunset Junction Street Fairs demonstrate.

The intimate relationship that J'ai enjoys with her audience comes out of her intense commitment to incorporate them into her performance. "Without my audience, I'm not me. Once I'm on stage, and I've got my mike, and I've got my audience, I'm okay. I'm doing what most performers only wish they could do—perform exactly what they want to do, and certainly enjoy it! I'm a very lucky person."

J'ai is not a total stranger to the down side of the blues, her mother having died when she was a child. "My mother was my best friend," J'ai remembers. "She's there with me all the time when I'm on stage. She's a big part of me." More recently, the deaths of friends from violence

and AIDS have profoundly affected the singer's life.

On February 3, J'ai will be performing in "The Survivors," a benefit for Being Alive/People with AIDS Action Coalition at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. The evening will be a tribute to people living with AIDS. On February 18, J'ai will be performing at the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference at the University Hilton. She will also be performing in At My Place on February 8 in Santa Monica, and later in the month at a \$500 per plate dinner to benefit the Venice Family Clinic. About AIDS, J'ai states emphatically, "If you can do anything to draw attention to it, do it. There are people not doing what they ought to be doing. It's the most dreaded fear the world faces." J'ai matches her actions with her philosophy about the blues as she practices what she preaches. "Do something about it!" she challenges people, as she did when performing at the historic appearance of Jesse Jackson at Catch One in June 1988.

J'ai sums up her quest for making the blues a meaningful tool for life, repeating, "I'm a very lucky person. I'm very blessed. This is my time. I'm dedicated to making the blues accessible to people. This is what it's about, and this is what you've got to do! Things happen for people who believe in themselves and persevere. It will happen for you, it will happen for people."



J'ai



# German Maisonet

## *A doctor talks about health care for blacks in the Age of AIDS*

By Alan Bell and Jarvis D. Moore

*German Victor Maisonet-Rodriquez, M.D., F.A.A.P., is a board certified general pediatrician who has had extensive experience with both the chemically dependent and people who are HIV positive.*

*Since his move to Los Angeles in 1978, Maisonet has been professionally affiliated with many hospitals, including Coldwater Canyon Hospital, Pasadena Community Hospital, Glendora Community Hospital, West Hollywood Hospital, and Kaiser Permanente. He is currently a member of the Los Angeles Mission College faculty in the Department of Chemical Dependency Studies. He is also a member of many California medical societies.*

*In addition to his private practice, Maisonet was the Co-Medical Director of the Minority AIDS Proj-*

### THE BLK INTERVIEW

*ect until March 1988. He has worked with the Shanti Foundation and the National Minority AIDS Council. He volunteered to work on the National Strategy Team for Surgeon General C. Everett Koop., and on the Advisory Board to the UCLA Gay Men's Study on condoms, anal intercourse, and viricidal lubricants.*

*Four months after he was born, he and his family moved from Puerto Rico to New York. Doted upon at four by a lady who ran a bordello in a neighboring apartment, and sexually molested by a babysitter at five, Maisonet had a varied early childhood. Surviving it, he says, gave him a strong spiritual foundation. Spanish was the primary language at home and he did not learn to speak English until he was six years old. Quite early, at age five, he decided to become a doctor.*

*He attended New York public schools and graduated from Columbia in 1968. During that period of student activism and political awareness, Maisonet participated in the take over of a building at Columbia by the Afro-American Student Society. He came out at the prestigious Albert Einstein Medical School in New York. Although he tried to remain politically active, he endured hostility even from fellow black students. 'What they were saying is 'you have no right to exist as a black person who is gay,' and that is racism,' Maisonet says. He graduated with honors in 1974.*

*Dr. Maisonet fulfilled his junior residency in New York, and his senior residency in Cincinnati in 1977.*

*What is the state of health care for black gay men and lesbians in the United States?*

Black people tend to have some of the worst health care (superseded only by native Americans in certain areas) and the reason is that the delivery of health care is uneven in this country. If you live in West Hollywood, you are pretty lucky. You have a community that supports you. If you live in South Central or in East Los Angeles, good luck.

*Why is that?*

Racism! I know you are going to call me a "sixties radical," but we have got to face the fact that racism, institutional racism, skews many statistics. Let me give some examples of how ridiculous the American system has become. A black child born in Cuba lives longer, and can expect to see his fifth birthday much more likely than a black child born within a fifty mile radius of the White House. The funny part is if you look at little countries like Anguila, Barbados, Curacao, and Jamaica, black children born there stand a better chance of seeing their fifth birthday than do black children born anywhere in the United States. I don't want to urge all gay black people to move to West Hollywood, but what has to happen is a more equitable health delivery system.

*Are you talking so-called socialized medicine?*

We're the only capitalist country that doesn't have it. Health care should be a right, not a privilege of the wealthy. Our for-profit medical system is interventionalist rather than preventative. You treat the patient when they get sick instead of trying to maintain a well person.

*What can we do?*

We must realize that health care is political for black people because we are disproportionately dependent on funds allocated to health care voted upon by Congress. The current President of the United States was voted in by only 40 percent of the electorate. I'm sure a lot of people who didn't go to vote were black gay people. Gays are 10 percent of the population, and black gays are 10 percent of that. So there could have been 250,000 people working hard, registering voters, and going out demonstrating.

*What about Jesse Jackson?*

Jackson had openly gay people in the Rainbow Coalition. He mentioned the words, gay, lesbian, and AIDS during the Democratic Convention. I would like to have seen how it would have turned out if, since he did not get the presidential nomination, he would have become the new Democratic National Chair. Probably our agenda would have been accepted.

*And with Dukakis...?*

I didn't think Dukakis was any great shakes. In fact, I think George Bush would probably be a better President than Dukakis because he may be more open in what he says, he will probably carry out. I think we will probably



# Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing For The 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



## The Second Annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference and AIDS Institute February 17-20, 1989

### FRIDAY

#### *"You Made Us Feel Mighty Real"*

A Tribute to Sylvester

*Starring*

**Chaka Kahn,  
Jeannie Tracey  
& Kim Miller**

9:00 P.M.

Catch One Disco  
4067 W. Pico Blvd.

Tickets: \$10.00 ea.

### Special Events

#### SATURDAY

#### *"An Evening at the Cotton Club"*

A Musical Salute to the  
Black Divas of the Blues

*Starring*

**Sweet Baby J'ai**

*With a Special Appearance by*

**Taurean Blaque**  
of *"Hill Street Blues"*

7:00 P.M.

The Grand Ballroom  
of the University Hilton

Tickets: \$50.00 ea.

#### SUNDAY

#### **National Minority AIDS Council**

Benefit Luncheon

*Honoring*

**Whoopi Goldberg**

*With Special Guest*

**Natalie Cole**

1:30 P.M.

The Grand Ballroom of the University  
Hilton

Tickets: \$35.00 ea.

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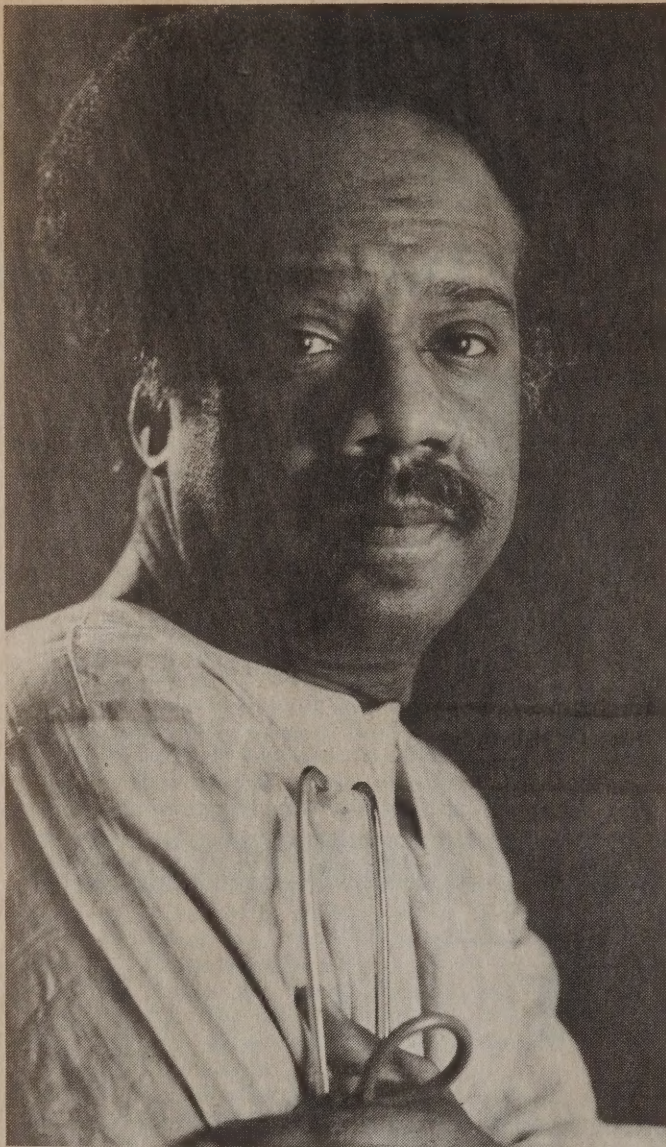
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German Maisonet. Photo by Bob Finney.

see the reappointment of Everett Koop as Surgeon General or the creation of an AIDS office which would be at a para-cabinet level.

*Would such an office be really useful or would it simply mean more salaries and more copying machines?*

It depends on the person who runs the office. If it is Koop, or someone of his stature and integrity, who knows health care issues, it will work.

*Who wouldn't you like to see in this position?*

There's a Dr. Lorimar here in Southern California. I would not like to see him or anybody like that.

*How could this national AIDS office be effective?*

First, there's no need to create a new bureaucracy in the AIDS industry. We have to make those organizations which are present now more sensitive to the needs of black people. For example, instead of pulling money away from county hospitals, they need more. That is where a disproportionate number of black people, especially black gay people get their treatment. There are addicts who are not going to go to a testing center no

matter what you do. We may need to send vans to go out and do testing for people who cannot get out of their neighborhood or feel trapped in their neighborhood.

*What are agencies and authorities not doing that you would like to see them do?*

There must be more cultural consideration in the delivery of health services. Many of the strategies for getting information about AIDS out to white gay men are not as functional in the black and Latino communities.

*Many agencies have put out pamphlets, used billboards, and made videos. Does any of that stuff work?*

I do not think it is working for black gay men. I think the people who are going to have to deliver the message are going to have to look like the people whom they want the message to be accepted by.

*Are you suggesting that someone like Mike Tyson do safe sex commercials?*

A well-known black heterosexual name would be a plus for advertizing to heterosexuals. For gay men, it might possibly work. Blacks have got to educate blacks.

*Well, we've got the Minority AIDS Project Los Angeles and the National Minority AIDS Council.*

I was a member of the Board of Directors and Co-Medical Director of the Minority AIDS Project until March of '88.

*What happened?*

I'd rather not go into that.

*Is the project headed in the right direction?*

It needs more funding.

*Some of the agencies have been criticized for supposedly becoming too concerned with conferences, writing articles, and being on TV as opposed to the grassroots delivery of services to people who are infected.*

I think minority agencies in general are going to have to confront the fact that in Los Angeles County, at least 90 percent of all cases of AIDS in the black community and are gay men. They need to be made accountable for the money they receive. I think we need somebody at the state and local level, and a national representative to say if you want money for health care, then you deliver health care. I mean that if they can't cover gay men, and that's 90 percent of the cases, they should give 90 percent of the money back. Also, many minority organizations need technical advice on how to cope with change. The organization may be successful at a grassroots level, then they get drowned in money and are expected to grow quickly, and they can't handle it.

*Do you have a particular organization in mind when you say this?*

I think all agencies are like that, not just the minority ones. But I remember when APLA was first developing. It went from a hotline to a multi-million dollar non-profit agency by hiring staff, developing policies for any situation, getting insurance, and keeping excellent records for auditing and tax purposes. Maybe we need to develop a brain trust or data bank to assist agencies in managing change.

*Are some agencies in "competition" with one another?*

No one agency should think that it is going to be able to do it alone. And no single agency whether it's black, Latino, or Asian should decide that because another agency is developing along different lines that there is a lack of consensus. I don't know why people get all upset and bent out of shape. Eventually there will have to be agencies that specialize. For example, the IV drug users and prostitutes can go into drug and alcohol recovery



Mayor Tom Bradley  
Phyllis Diller  
Michele Lee

Judith Light  
Eddie Albert

Gloria Loring  
Robert Desiderio  
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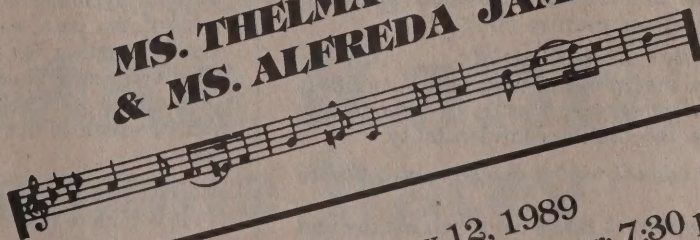
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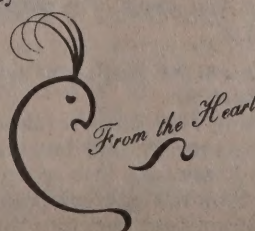
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programs and perinatal clinics that already exist.

*So in the minority community, is it reasonable to expect one agency...*

...minority agencies undertake all of it at the same time.

*Do you think that's reasonable?*

Absolutely not.

*In the white gay community there are a number of AIDS agencies each with a slightly different focus from the next.*

Yes. APLA has the Necessities of Life program whose mission is to collect food. The AFA is the one that helps distribute funds. APLA was the one that did the case management and the study program.

*What other things might be done if there were more funding?*

With more funding, there could be street outreach to deliver health care at more alternative sites. Everyone is worried about the heterosexuals with AIDS in the black community. Well, people have to remember that gay people use facilities in the general community. Gay women get pregnant and have babies. Gay men can father babies.

*Gay babies?*

Yes, gay people can have children. Black gay people live in black communities, and Latino gays live in Latino communities, and the health care of every person of color in their communities is bound up together.

*Should everyone take the test for AIDS? And is it really confidential? What if you just practice safe sex with everyone, do you really need to know if you are HIV positive?*

What's necessary is that everyone change their behavior to low risk activities. I don't think everyone needs to take the test, but you need to know if you have the virus. You need to know so that you can plan your life and change your sexual behavior. The county facilities and some that are not county facilities are anonymous. One place is The Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, although it was closed for 48 hours due to a lack of insurance. We need more testing places in Watts and East Los Angeles, but there is a drawback to that. Everybody knows each other and it's not anonymous sitting in the waiting room of your community clinic.

*So then the test really isn't confidential?*

The bottom line is that the test results are confidential because there is a lot of repercussion for anyone who would even come close to violating confidentiality.

*What about people outside taking down people's license plate numbers?*

I don't buy that because it takes too much money and too much of somebody's time. People should not be concerned or overly paranoid. Further, I recommend that a person should get pre-test counseling. I have had patients come into my office who wanted to be tested, and after speaking to them for 15 minutes, I could advise them that they weren't ready. Have you changed your behavior I would ask? Are you using condoms? "Well, kind of." Either you do, or you don't. The virus is not impressed with, "Well, kind of."

*Is there a real difference in the black and white gay communities in terms of statistics?*

Black gay men are testing HIV positive at a higher rate than their white gay peers. We still have a higher rate of sexually transmitted diseases. One of the things you have to remember is that the gay community is a drug afflicted community and my gut feeling is that there

are more drugs in the black community in general.

*Is there anything we can do?*

One of the most important things the black community must do is raise its level of self-esteem, especially gay black men. I think a lot of unsafe sex is desperate sex. Now we must care about ourselves and each other. We have to respect our partners and be considerate, and that means keeping safety in mind at all times. Safety must become a part of daily routine.

*That sounds like a substantive-long term change in lifestyle.*

Yes, but I remember we had a Civil Rights Movement, which changed the opinion black people had of themselves and we forget that some of the spearheads for that movement were very courageous black men and women who could not come out of the closet at that time. We forget that the mentor of the late sixties of black and white youth was a black gay man and a pivotal play was written by black lesbian. I mean Bayard Rustin, Lorraine Hansberry, and James Baldwin. We also have to remember the good things about ourselves.

*What advice do you have for those who are HIV positive or who have an active case of AIDS?*

Even if you are healthy, there is still the reaction, "Oh my God, I am going to die." There is the tendency to feel isolated, even though part of a support network. It is not easy to talk about AIDS, but have someone to talk to.

*What about their special medical needs?*

That is a real problem, because what I am starting to find is something I had suspected for a long time. Physicians in general do not wish to take care of or provide primary care for people with AIDS. I think the numbers are even smaller for black and Latino medical professionals. In the black community, and in the Latino as well as others, there is still the concept that AIDS is a gay disease. With the assumption that it is a white gay disease because these communities do not want to acknowledge that there are significant numbers of gays in their communities. This virus does not care who you are.

*Do you have anything to say to people who know someone who is sick? Should they get special counseling?*

The psychological aspect of AIDS is dramatic. There is a lot of raw pain, suffering, and crying in the community. Get counseling for yourself and loved ones around you. There are still many fears in the community, such as a person can get AIDS by living with a person who has AIDS, which is not true. AIDS is not casually transmitted.

*Is there a final comment you want to make?*

If you have not established a relationship with a physician, not only have any AIDS related issues been ignored, but so has your general health. If you have waited for a long time before seeing a doctor, one of the reasons might be that you don't have the money. If you were not poor before you had AIDS, you will be poor after you get it. Your health is priceless.

**Next Month  
in BLK  
Randy Cochran**



# *You Made Us Feel Mighty Real*



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**SUNDAY** - Luncheon honoring Whoopi Goldberg with special guest Natalie Cole to benefit the National Minority Aids Council. 1:30 P.M. University Hilton Hotel. For more information or to register for the Conference, contact the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum: 213/667-2549.

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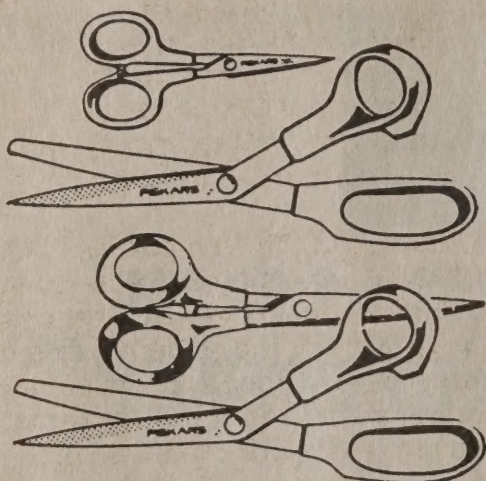


# Celebrity Foreskin

*Who's circumcised and who's not among  
black newsmakers*

**By Jarvis D. Moore**

Circumcision is a big issue with gay men, since the penises of other men, as well as their own, play such an important role in their sexual lives and fantasies. For many years in the gay world, the "uncut" man was often made to feel unwanted in sexual relationships. Today, however, "uncut" is "in" with many gays. Why? Probably because "uncut" is a novelty in a generally "cut" society. In the post-World War II years, circumcision was so universal in most areas, that many boys reported they had never seen a foreskin during their youth. The situation is



changing rapidly. Today the National Center for Health Statistics reports only 60 percent of newborn boys nationally are circumcised, with the percentage dropping.

Thirteen years ago, Chuck Thompson began to research, obtain, and compile the feelings, experiences, and status of men regarding circumcision. In particular, he became intensely interested in the status of celebrities. Thompson gets information for his now lifelong study in several ways. He places ads in publications inviting people to share their experiences. He keeps a sharp eye open for information in biographies and other publications. He has "researchers" who have entered professional locker rooms and exclusive gyms to make observations. Plus he has contacts who have worked at movie studios in wardrobe. Some write-in respondents had known a celebrity in high school. Others claim to have had sexual relationships with a celebrity.

Thompson believes his is the most accurate list of several available ones, and he constantly updates it as new facts emerge, preferably supplied by the subject himself. For example, the list was used on a *Phil Donahue Show*, and Donahue claimed he was incorrectly listed.

Thompson, who is circumcised, claims his interest in

circumcision started on the first day of kindergarten, when he discovered at the urinal that he was "different" from the two boys on either side of him. From that day on, he developed an insatiable curiosity as to whether every male he met was "cut" or "uncut."

Thompson says the emotional trauma of being "different" can last for years and fundamentally effects a man's outlook on life. He used stalls in the restroom up through high school, and never permitted anyone to see him nude. His project has served as a forum where men have been able to share their experiences and air their frustrations:

*"In the high school locker room, I got my share of derisive remarks and jests, like 'hey elephant trunk,' and 'skum skin,' etc. It was embarrassing. The coach suggested that it might be the best thing for me to be circumcised for comfort and cleanliness."*

*"In elementary school I was very aware of being different, and in junior high school I was called 'queer,' and felt that only normal, handsome, smart, straight guys were circumcised...In high school, five guys came up to me in gym and asked when I was going to get the 'growth and disease' removed from my cock.... As an adult, I took a guy home and after undressing, he told me that he 'couldn't have sex with that'."*

*"I attended a school where almost all the boys were cut. Neither my parents nor anyone else bothered to explain to me why I was different. This was a source of deep concern and anxiety for me, and I went to almost any length to avoid being seen in the nude. When I reached 22, I had myself circumcised...."*

*"I felt as if I was the only person in the world who was like this and was very shy about it. I participated in lots of sports but hated getting undressed...I am very well-built, but I couldn't feel normal. When I was 16 years old, I met a doctor while hitch-hiking to the beach. He seduced me and eventually circumcised me."*

A growing number of "cut" men are indignant that they were circumcised as babies, and have a feeling they have missed out on one of life's pleasures. Examples:

*"I regret the loss of my foreskin. It was something of mine that was taken from me without my approval. I now prefer sex with partners who are uncut and wish that there was some way that my foreskin could be surgically restored. I have become an rabid voyeur, trying to see as many uncuts as I can."*

*"I am fascinated by foreskin, as it is so attractive. I enjoy seeing it and still wish I had my own. It's rude, but I tend to stare when it's available to view. I do often look at my perfect clip-job and wonder how much was removed, and how wonderful it would be to watch and feel*



*the head appear and disappear into its own skin, rather than into my hand. Something's missing."*

As they become adults, "uncut" boys find their status to be a plus. Some men seek them out as sex partners. One need merely check out the personals ads in gay publications to note how an "uncut" status is often featured.

Thompson's research project continues. So far his project has yielded over 1600 names of men involved in movies, TV, sports, music, government, and other "celebrity" occupations. The list of black men that follows was culled from Thompson's list and was augmented with other research.

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#### UNCIRCUMCISED

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Vida Blue, *Baseball player*  
Bill Cosby, *Comedian*  
Chris Dickerson, *1975 Mr. Olympia*  
Rosey Grier, *Football player, Artist*  
Richie Havens, *Singer*  
Jimi Hendrix, *Singer*  
Jesse Jackson, *Politician*  
Earvin "Magic" Johnson, *Basketball player*  
Martin Luther King, Jr., *Civil rights leader*  
Joe Louis, *Boxer*  
Johnny Mathis, *Singer*  
Greg Morris, *Actor*  
Eddie Murphy, *Comedian*  
Tony Pearson, *1977 Mr. America*  
Pele, *Soccer player*  
Charlie Pride, *Singer*  
Little Richard, *Singer*  
Mr. T, *Actor*  
Flip Wilson, *Comedian*

---

#### CIRCUMCISED

---

Muhammad Ali, *Boxer*  
Idi Amin, *Politician*  
Arthur Ashe, *Tennis player*  
Jim Brown, *Actor*  
Rod Carew, *Baseball player*  
Spencer Christian, *TV weatherman*  
Sammy Davis, *Entertainer*  
Kareem Abdul Jabbar, *Basketball player*  
Jackie Jackson, *Singer*  
Jermaine Jackson, *Singer*  
Marlon Jackson, *Singer*  
Michael Jackson, *Singer*  
Randy Jackson, *Singer*  
Tito Jackson, *Singer*  
Sugar Ray Leonard, *Boxer*  
Carl Lewis, *Athlete*  
Roger Mosley, *Actor*  
Yannick Noan, *Tennis player*  
Ken Norton, *Boxer*  
Brock Peters, *Actor*  
Ahmad Rashad, *Football player*  
O.J. Simpson, *Football player*  
Marc Singer, *Actor*  
Raymond St. Jacques, *Actor*  
Billy Dee Williams, *Actor*  
Paul Winfield, *Actor*

*Thompson would like to hear from anyone who can supply additional material for his continuing survey. You can obtain his complete list and samples of his newsletter by sending \$6 to Box 691024, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



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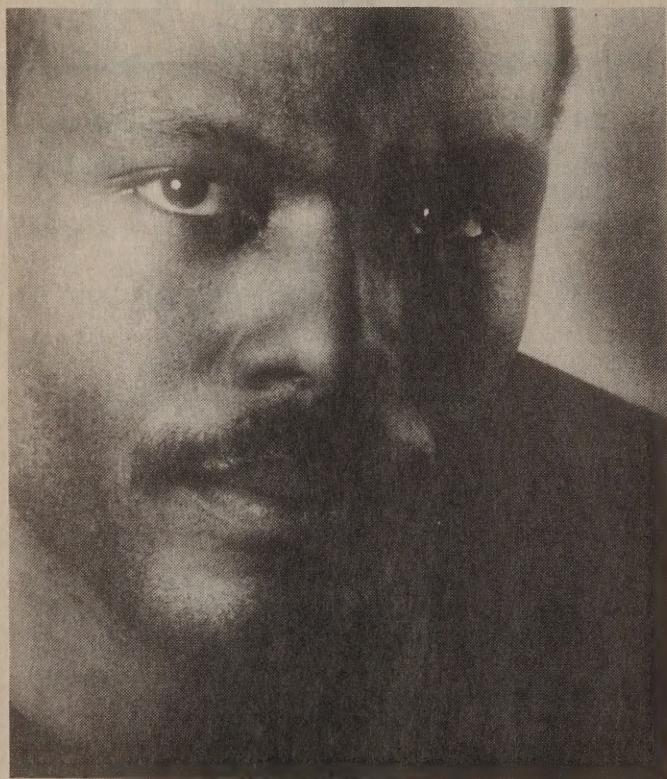




# Joe Beam

*Death claims author of In the Life;  
second volume to be published posthumously*

**Compiled by Alan Bell**



Joe Beam. Photo by Sharon Farmer.

Celebrated author Joseph Fairchild Beam, the editor of *In the Life*, died of heart failure due to AIDS at his Philadelphia home December 27, 1988, just three days before his 34th birthday. Beam had been depressed for a number of months over apparent career setbacks and, according to his family, had been ill for the last year with respiratory and stomach ailments.

Although the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office listed the cause of death as AIDS-related, a conclusive determination was impossible, according to a spokesman who wished to remain anonymous, because Beam had been dead for a week before he was found, and the body had begun to decompose. The Medical Examiner's Office was able to confirm, however, that Beam was HIV positive.

There had been wide-spread speculation that Beam's death was drug-related or that he had committed suicide, but both of these possibilities were ruled out by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Beam is known primarily for the collection of writing and artwork by black men he began assembling in 1985. It was published 18 months later under the title, *In the Life*.

Although a number of works had already been published by and about black lesbians, Beam's was the first modern anthology ever to focus on the experiences of black gay men.

In the book's introduction, he wrote, "The bottom line is this: We are black men who are proud and gay. What we offer is our lives, our loves, our visions....We are coming home with our heads held up high."

After the book's publication, Beam gave lectures and appeared at bookstores across the country, developing a reputation as an articulate and sensitive voice for the black gay community.

"For the first time in that book, black gay men got to tell about their lives and experiences in their own words. Joe was a pioneer," said James Roberts, a contributor who also worked with Beam on other projects.

"His book was a major contribution not only to the black gay community, but to the black community at large, which has often denied the existence of gays within it," said the Rev. Darlene Garner, a founding board member of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays.

Beam was the first editor of *Black/Out*, the national black gay and lesbian literary magazine, and served for three years on the board of directors of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. He also had worked as a columnist for *Au Courant*, and as a contributing editor for the magazine, *Blacklight*. His work has been published in *The Advocate*, *Gay Community News*, *Philadelphia Gay News*, *New York Native*, *Blackheart* and *Windy City Times*, as well as *Painted Bride Quarterly*.

"He was a national figure in the gay and lesbian world," said Ed Hermance, a friend and owner of Giovanni's Room, a Philadelphia bookstore.

"Joe was such a positive role model for black gay men and women alike," said Rev. Renee McCoy, executive director of NCBLG. "He had a gentle, frank spirit and was an inspiration to gays and lesbians at all levels, from all walks of life."

Essex Hemphill, a member of NCBLG and a contributor to *In the Life*, also spoke of the inspiration that Beam had provided: "The work that Joe did in the community as a whole—gay and lesbian, black and white—enriched the community in ways that have yet to manifest themselves. His life was a light for many of us. His book opened up an important dialogue among black gay men, and made us aware of the number of us out here."

Among his most memorable pieces at the Philadelphia Gay News was an extensive interview several years ago with the late civil rights leader Bayard Rustin. "Joe did excellent work—well-written and well-thought out," said managing editor Tommi Avicoli said. "...He was a very articulate voice speaking about the experience of being black and gay. A lot of people were moved by him."

Six feet tall, sturdy and mustachioed, with penetrating



eyes and a distinct assuredness, Beam had been a visible leader in the black gay community since the early 1980s. He had long been proud of being black. In his mid- to late 20s, he also made it clear that he was proud of being gay.

Though a leading advocate for causes important to gay blacks, Beam was not without personal struggles over the issues. He grew angry at injustice. To those who knew him well, he seemed at times tormented by society's slowness in accepting—even recognizing—gay blacks.

It was that frustration which triggered his landmark book. In 1984, he placed an advertisement in the *Philadelphia Gay News*, soliciting black gay writers with the words, "Visibility is survival." A collection of essays, poems, interviews and short stories, *In the Life* includes works by several recognized authors, but was primarily a volume by those largely unknown.

Beam poured himself into editing their manuscripts. In the book, he described his role: "Not only was I an editor, but often was a confidant and friend to the brothers who submitted their work. I listened to their stories of failed loves, tales of looking for employment...Time after time, their letters and phone calls catapulted me past moments of lethargy and depression. We supported each other."

It was on a personal level that many remembered Beam, describing him as a man who combined thoughtfulness with a lively spirit.

"What stands out was his openness and willingness to be present with people and give whatever he could, even at personal sacrifice," said Garner. Beam, who considered himself spiritual but not religious, used to attend her services at Metropolitan Community Church in Philadel-

phia as a gesture of support, Garner said.

Reared in West Philadelphia, the son of a bank guard and a school counselor, Beam attended St. Joseph School for Boys in Clayton, Delaware, and Malvern Preparatory School before graduating in 1972 from St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia. He earned a bachelor's degree from Franklin College of Indiana in 1976. Then he returned to Philadelphia to write.

Beam also worked in sales at several bookstores and as a waiter at several restaurants.

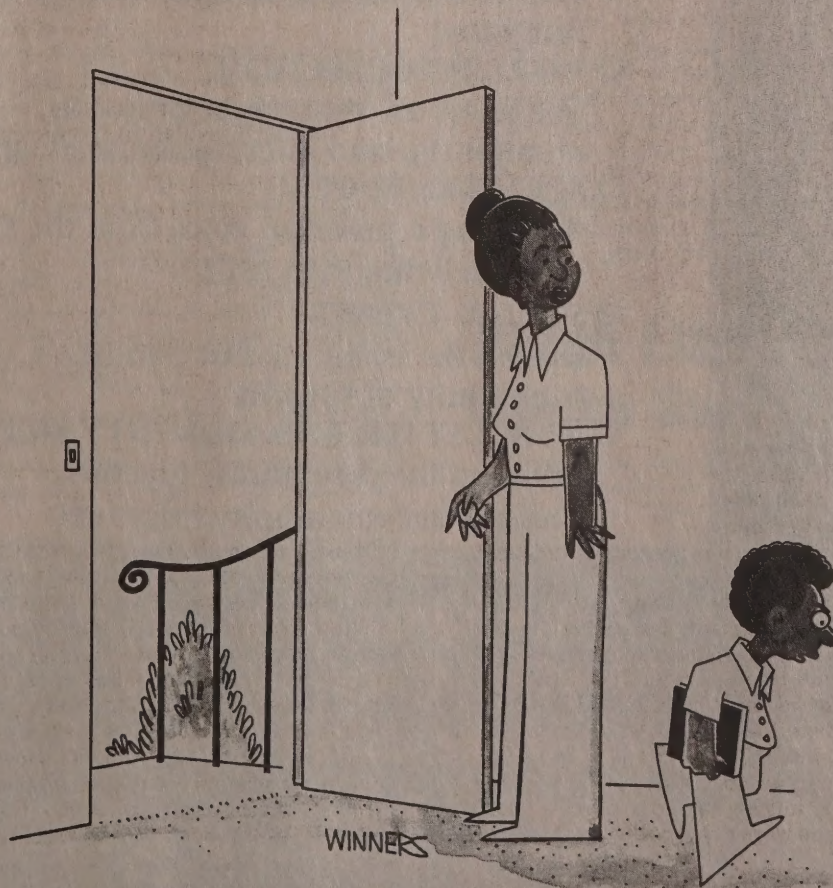
At the time of his death, Beam was compiling material for a second collection, *Brother to Brother*. According to his publisher, Sasha Alyson, "Joe already had made a great deal of progress on that book, and his parents were highly supportive of what he was doing. We still expect to publish it." "Brother to Brother" was the title of an essay Beam wrote for the first anthology, a piece he considered one of his best works.

Beam was a member of the Black Writers Guild and won several awards for his efforts.

Surviving are his parents, Dorothy and Sun F. Beam; a foster sister, Addie Lee; and a foster brother, Charles Saunders.

A Joseph Beam Memorial Scholarship Fund for creative writing has been established at Temple University. Contributions may be made in care of Marie Inyang, Esq., PSFS Building, 12 S. 12th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

*Substantial portions of this article were written by Donna St. George for the Philadelphia Inquirer, and appeared there first.*



"The new kid is straight."



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# Community News

## Research Says Cokers See High AIDS Risk

CHICAGO (AP)—Drug abusers who inject cocaine are more likely to catch AIDS infections from the practice than those who shoot heroin, researchers found in a study of 633 addicts in San Francisco.

Injection of cocaine promotes more sharing of hypodermic needles than heroin injection because cocaine's briefer euphoria requires more doses—up to 10 a day, the researchers said.

"The cocaine association is news. This is the first time it's ever been reported," said Dr. Richard E. Chaisson, formerly of the University of California at San Francisco and now of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Chaisson and fellow researchers studied 633 heroin addicts enrolled in drug treatment programs in San Francisco from May 1986 to July 1987. About 60 percent of the addicts also injected cocaine.

Seventy-seven of the addicts in the study, or 12 percent, were HIV+, the researchers reported in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Among addicts who did not use cocaine at all, 8 percent were infected, Chaisson said.

Addicts who injected cocaine once a month had a 15 percent HIV infection rate, those who injected it weekly had a 21 percent infection rate, and those who injected it daily had a 28 percent infection rate, Chaisson said.

"There were striking increases in infection rate with increasing use of the drug," Chaisson said in a telephone interview. "That was not seen with heroin use in a similar pattern."

Intravenous drug abusers account for 20 percent of the more than 83,000 adult cases of AIDS reported to the national Centers for Disease Control since 1979. Experts believe HIV infection is spread among this group through blood residue on shared needles.

The study found that if addicts used cocaine regularly, they were more likely to share needles with many people. Increased usage was associated with a greater likelihood the addict had injected cocaine at a "shooting gallery," where people buy drugs and rent needles, Chaisson said.

"If someone goes to a shooting gallery, they pay a dollar and get a syringe. They have no idea how many people have used that needle," he said.

Chaisson said the government estimates that 900,000 people in this country abuse drugs by injecting them. He said he believes anywhere from 100,000 to 500,000 people inject cocaine, less than 10 percent of all people using the drug.

"Heroin is not the only problem or even the major problem," Chaisson said. "Cocaine has emerged as a more serious problem than heroin, in part because methadone is available to control heroine abuse, but nothing is available to control cocaine."

Chaisson said 95 percent of the subjects were able to reduce their heroin use with methadone, a drug substitute used in treatment programs to reduce the craving for heroin.

## Black Gay Performance Art Hits Los Angeles

By Chi Hughes

Los Angeles opened its doors to two of the East Coast's premiere performance artists, Essex Hemphill and Weyson Jones, with a three-day run at LACE entitled "Earth-life: A Theatre Concert." The evening was a mixture of prose, performance, music and photography.

Hemphill's poetry, heavily steeped in black gay male erotica and inner city lifestyles, provided social commentary on sex, poverty, oppression, love, violence, drag queens, AIDS, family and sensuality.

Avant garde musical accompaniment composed by Weyson Jones was performed on bass guitar, synthesizer and rhythm box. The evening also included slides from photos taken by Washington, D.C. photographer Sharon Farmer.

The show, which consisted of 25 individual works, included material on the brutal assault of a black woman in Washington, D.C. (Hemphill and Jones's hometown); "Brass Rail," a poem on the infamous gay bar in Washington, D.C.; and "Mi Padre," performed in Spanish and English in the call and response tradition, about a child's respect and admiration for "My Father." "Spirits" by Birago Diop, often sung by Sweet Honey in the Rock, was delivered in the latter segment of the concert in tribute to black/African ancestry.

Hemphill and Jones will release their first 45 rpm disc this spring on their Mega Watts label. In addition, they will be featured in an upcoming documentary on Langston Hughes entitled, *Looking for Langston*.

The performance at LACE was partially made possible through a grant from the National Performance Network.

## Black Literary Journal Seeks Submissions

*Black/Out*, the publication of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, is seeking articles for its spring issue. The theme of the issue, to be edited by Angela Bowen of Boston, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan of Los Angeles and Colin Robinson of New York, will be "We Are Family."

Submissions are welcome on topics such as: role models in the black gay and lesbian community, relationships with our families of origin, relationships between black lesbians and gay men, black gay fathers and lesbian mothers. Submissions may be articles, short stories, journal entries, line drawings or poetry.

The deadline for submissions, which should be typed, doubled-spaced, and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, is February 15, 1989. Submissions should be sent to Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, Box 4811, Culver City, CA 90231. All other correspondence should be directed to Angela Bowen, *Black/Out*, Box 426, Cambridge MA 02139.





**Chaka Kahn.** *Photo by Matthew Rolston.*



**Taurean Blaque**

## Gay Conference in Los Angeles Only Weeks Away

*By Alan Smithee*

Activity hastens for the planning committee of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference as the confab enters the final weeks of preparation. Over 1000 people are expected to attend the conference which will be held February 17-20, 1989 at the University Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley is scheduled to give the opening address Saturday morning.

The theme of the conference, which is being sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, is "Loving Ourselves, Healing Ourselves, Preparing for the 21st Century."

Scheduled events include workshops, seminars, luncheons, a banquet, a concert and a dance. Allied activities include an all-day workshop on AIDS in the black gay community called the "AIDS Institute"; a strategy session for representatives of local and national black gay and lesbian organizations called the "Leadership Roundtable"; and a benefit luncheon for the National Minority AIDS Council.

Among the workshops to be offered are "How to Get 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Status," "Women Spirituality," "How to Start a Business," "Grant Writing," "How to Do Grassroots Organizing," "Careers and the Closet," "How to Do Political Lobbying," "Depression and How to Cope," "How to Develop a Relationship," "How to Do Fundraising," "How to Look for a Job" and "Lesbian Relationships." More are scheduled.

Chaka Kahn, Jeannie Tracey and Kim Miller will appear at Catch One Friday night in "You Made Us Feel Mighty Real," a program billed as a tribute to the late

Sylvester.

Taurean Blaque and J'ai will appear at a banquet and dance Saturday night to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the University Hilton. J'ai will perform in a revue called "An Evening at the Cotton Club," a musical tribute to the black divas of the blues.

Whoopi Goldberg and Natalie Cole will appear at Sunday's benefit luncheon for the National Minority AIDS Council, as will Council Co-Chairs California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters and Rev. Carl Bean.

Rev. Renee McCoy will lead Sunday morning worship at the Unity Fellowship Church.

Registration for the conference is \$70. Registration for the conference and the AIDS Institute is \$100. Tickets to the National Minority AIDS Council Luncheon are \$25 for registrants and \$35 for non-registrants. Conference registration includes Friday evening entertainment, the Saturday evening banquet and all workshop sessions.

The conference planning committee has devised a work exchange program allowing people to volunteer their time during the conference in lieu of paying the registration fee. Conference planning committee meetings are held Saturdays at 10 a.m. at the Minority AIDS Project, 5149 West Jefferson, Los Angeles.

The conference planning committee has also created two special funds, a scholarship fund and a people with AIDS fund. This money is set aside to sponsor people with special needs and PWAs who otherwise would be unable to attend the conference. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 213-667-2549 or write, BGLLF, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027.



# Politico Nate Holden Puts Black Gay Kids on Hold

By Cornell Makonnen

Efforts to persuade Councilman Nate Holden (L.A.-10th Dist.) to approve a loan from a city agency for two group homes for gay youths have apparently failed. Teresa DeCrescenzo, Executive Director and founder of Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services has indicated that she will attempt to obtain funding elsewhere, since the Community Redevelopment Agency will not lend her the money necessary to maintain the homes without Holden's approval.

Founded in 1984, GLASS owns two houses in South Central Los Angeles for displaced lesbian and gay minors. Eight of the current young residents are black, four are Hispanic and one is white. Most were referred by the County Social Services Department or other non-profit agencies. Several were previously homeless or facing eviction by anti-gay or AIDS-panicked parents.

Necessary repairs to the two housing facilities were undertaken by DeCrescenzo on the understanding that the CRA would loan GLASS \$245,000 to meet renovation costs. The CRA often makes such loans on easy terms to entities trying to upgrade services in minority communities. However, councilmembers must approve projects in their districts before the CRA will fund them.

Councilman Mike Woo discussed the project with Holden last October, when Holden is said to have agreed to transmit his approval to the CRA. But later, alleges DeCrescenzo, he declined to write the promised letter of support.

Faced with mounting bills, DeCrescenzo and her staff urgently sought to meet with Holden. While promising to inspect the two facilities personally in the near future,

Holden informed GLASS that he had several concerns. He was assured that although GLASS accepts HIV-positive juveniles, neither facility was or would become an AIDS hospice, an apparent concern of the Councilman's. Although DeCrescenzo is white, more than half of GLASS's staff are persons of color, and the input of minorities, including Holden's staff members, had been solicited prior to and during GLASS's development, according to DeCrescenzo.

Efforts by Woo, State Senator Diane Watson, West Hollywood Councilman Steve Schulte and Minority AIDS Project head Rev. Carl Bean all failed to persuade the Councilman to sign off. Holden is said to have voiced concerns about the size of salaries for DeCrescenzo and others, and the inability of GLASS to provide adequate collateral for the loan. (CRA has expressed no such reservations.)

But his overriding opposition apparently rests upon promises he is alleged to have made to South Central residents that he would oppose establishment of new group homes. However, DeCrescenzo points out that the GLASS homes are not new, and have maintained good relations with their neighbors.

DeCrescenzo, a former board president of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, has said that she will pursue federal funding. Meanwhile, one of GLASS's two houses faces foreclosure proceedings and the state has imposed fines totaling \$2000 for failure to make required repairs.

For more information or to make a donation, call GLASS at 213-653-3496.

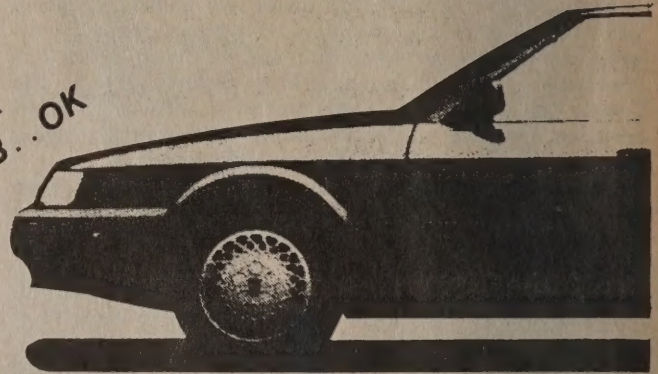


*"The bad news is that the house is a mess, but the good news is that all of us guys decided over the weekend that we were gay and I'm about to slam the door in your face."*



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NO CREDIT...OK  
BANKRUPTCY...OK  
NO CO-SIGNER...OK  
CREDIT PROBLEMS...OK  
CHARGE OFFS...OK  
NEW ON THE JOB...OK

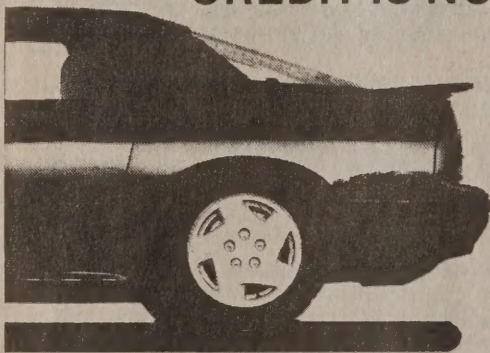


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## Black Student Group Slates Free Film Series

The Black Student Assembly at the University of Southern California in association with the USC School of Cinema-Television and the USC African-American Film Association is sponsoring a film series, "African-American Independent Film Retrospective," January 28 through February 26, 1989. All screenings are free and open to the public.

January 28, Bovard Auditorium: 7 p.m., *Wattstax*.

February 3, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *Uptight*; 7:30 p.m., *I Have a Dream*; 7:45 p.m., *Black Panther*; 8 p.m., *Malcolm X*.

February 4, Bovard Auditorium: 5 p.m., *Mahogany*; 7 p.m., *Lady Sings the Blues*.

February 5, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *Happy Birthday, Dr. King*; 6:30 p.m., *Coming to America*.

February 10, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *The Learning Tree*; 8 p.m., *Sounder*.

February 11, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *Purple Rain*; 7:30 p.m., *The Wiz*.

February 12, Norris Cinema Theatre: 6 p.m., *Brazil: The Vanishing Negro*; 6:30 p.m., *Black Orpheus*.

February 16, Lucas Instructional Building: 6 p.m., *Hallelujah*; 7:45 p.m., *The Emperor Jones*; 9 p.m., *Imitation of Life*.

February 18, Norris Cinema Theatre: 6 p.m., *The Dutchman*; 7 p.m., *The Cool World*; 8:30 p.m., *The Education of Sonny Carson*.

February 19, Norris Cinema Theatre: 6 p.m., *Oscar Micheaux, Film Pioneer*; 6:30 p.m., *Body and Soul*; 7:45 p.m., *Scar of Shame*; 9:15 p.m., *Black Shadows on a Silver Screen*.

February 24, Bovard Auditorium: 5 p.m., *The Devil is a Condition*; 5:30 p.m., *The Torture of Mothers*; 6:30 p.m., *Illusions*; 7 p.m., *Color*.

February 25, Bovard Auditorium: 6 p.m., *Rainbow Black*; 6:30 p.m., *A Different Image*; 7:30 p.m., *Claudine*.

February 26, Norris Cinema Theatre: 5 p.m., *The Answer*; 5:30 p.m., *Joe's Bed-Stuy Barber Shop*; 6:30 p.m., *Sarah*; 7 p.m., *She's Gotta Have It*; 8:30 p.m., *School Daze*.

For directions to the three theaters where the screenings are being held, or for any other information, call the University of Southern California at 213-743-8303.

## Leadership Roundtable Scheduled to Convene

Angela Bowen, Co-Chair of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, will lead a discussion among representatives of black lesbian and gay organizations February 20, 1989. The purpose of the meeting, which will be participatory rather than a panel discussion, will be to chart a course for the next decade and beyond.

All black gay and lesbian organizations are invited to send a representative, or to send written suggestions offering their organization's vision and goals for a national black gay and lesbian agenda. In addition, the discussion will include practical methods for goal accomplishment, and will consider both national and local perspectives.

For more information, contact Phill Wilson at 213-667-2549.

## List January CDC Stats on U.S. AIDS Cases

ATLANTA (AP)—Here are the latest statistics on acquired immune deficiency syndrome in the United States, through January 23, as reported by the national Centers for Disease Control. These statistics are through January 23 and have been rounded to the nearest whole percent. Cumulative totals are for AIDS cases reported since June 1981, and include 75 cases subsequently found to have occurred prior to that date.

### Number of Cases

Total cases reported since June 1981: 84,503.

Cases, year to date: 1,740.

Total deaths: 48,222, or 57 percent of all cases.

### Transmission Categories

Homosexual or bisexual males: 51,279, or 61 percent.

Intravenous drug abusers: 16,597, or 20 percent.

Homosexual male and drug abusers: 5,973, or 7 percent.

Heterosexual cases: 3,669, or 4 percent.

Transfusion or blood cases: 2,251, or 3 percent.

Hemophilia patients: 873, or 1 percent.

Children of parents with AIDS or at risk: 1,065, or 1 percent.

Undetermined transmission cause: 2,796, or 3 percent.

### Race

Cases among whites: 48,541, or 57 percent.

Cases among blacks: 22,472, or 27 percent.

Cases among Hispanics: 12,710, or 15 percent.

Cases among Asians or Pacific Islanders: 499, or 1 percent.

Cases among American Indians or Alaskan natives: 90, or 0 percent.

### Age

Childhood cases (under age 13): 1,375, or 2 percent.



"And did the seven dwarfs practice safe sex with each other when Snow White was gone?"



# List Complete Conference AIDS Institute Schedule

The National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference will open with the AIDS Institute February 17, 1989 at the University Hilton. The all-day session is specifically designed to provide information to individuals providing AIDS services and is also open to people wanting more information on the numerous facets of AIDS work from funding to support groups.

The following is the complete AIDS Institute schedule.

## **Commencement Plenary, 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.**

Introductions: Phill Wilson

Keynote Speaker: Warren Hewett, Office of Minority Health

## **Session One, 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.**

Creating Relationships with Foundations (double session): Midge Taylor, Tim Offutt, Liberty Hill, Michele Prichard

Developing and Managing a Volunteer Program: Bobby Smith

Developing Support Groups: Cleante Stain

Managing Hospices: Chi Hughes

Managing Management Program for Black Clients: To be announced

## **Session Two, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

Creating Relationships with Foundations (continued)

Starting an AIDS Program: Reggie Williams, U.S. Conference of Mayors

Grant Writing: Al Cunningham

Negotiating and Working with Federal Funders (question and answer): Gil Gerald

Developing Educational Strategies for Black Gay Men: George Bellinger, Jr., Craig Harris, Curtis Washington, Phill Wilson

## **Luncheon, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Introductions: To be announced

Speaker: Dr. Benny Primm

## **Session Three, 2:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.**

General Administration of an AIDS Program for Blacks: Tim Offutt, Veneita Porter

Working with/in the Church: Rev. Rene McCoy, Rev. Carl Bean

AIDS Services for Addicted PWAs: Dr. Herman Maisonette

Education Strategies for Black Women: Colevia Carter

Principles of Fundraising 101 (double session): CDC, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Rodney Carter, Midge Taylor

Program Evaluation: Dr. Stephan Thomas

## **Session Four, 3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

AIDS Programs in the Prisons: Colevia Carter

Principles of Fundraising 101 (continued)

Knowledge, Attitude and Behavior Studies: Amanda Hamilton-Houston

The Media: Effective Methods of AIDS Education in Black Communities: Al Cunningham

Case Management: Terri More

Starting a PWA Coalition: Larry Ellis, Jerome Boyce, David Holmes

## **BWMT Elects Officers**

Rene Seidel and Guy Hubbard were elected co-chairmen of Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles January 28, 1989 at the group's annual meeting held at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. Also elected were Les Amer, treasurer; John Dick, secretary; and Mark Denton and Diamond Murray, members-at-large.

**Next Month  
in BLK  
What Gay People Need  
to Know about Income Tax  
PLUS  
BLK Interviews Porno Star  
Randy Cochran**

## **Black Lesbian Group Retreats to Sausalito**

Nia, an 11-member Bay Area black lesbian collective, sponsored a gathering for black lesbians at the Headlands Institute in Sausalito November 18 through 20, 1988. The event, which was called "Defining Ourselves," grew out of the Black Caucus at the 1987 Lesbians of Color Conference in San Francisco.

Over 100 women attended workshops such as "Black Transculturalism," "Being Round and Wonderful," "Black Lesbian Culture," "Incest: Speak Your Truth," "Fear: Terminal Cool," "Sexuality and Aging," "Lesbians of Color and AIDS" and "Goddess Spirituality and the Lesbian."

"Many women came eager, but fearful," said Asungi, a Los Angeles artist who attended the event. "But as the hours passed, there was a definite feeling of sisterhood, sharing and kindred spirits among the group."

"I felt totally positive about being a black lesbian," she went on, "and awaking to the fact that there is a black lesbian culture. Many women have kept in contact as an alternative to the bars."

Nia, which means "purpose" in Swahili, designed the conference as a support mechanism for black lesbians in the Bay Area and on the West Coast.



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

When radical faeries go guppie, apparently they don't have to go far to retrieve that instinctive gay flair for partyin' and panache.

Supper at the posh bash in question consisted of *din-don cuit au buffet*, *nee* basted turkey and pasta ("Serve yourself, honey, the Dark Meat's goin' fast"). The party was peopled with the "Do you have a card?" set, who'd have networked each other to death if they hadn't already sold each other tickets to every lesbian or gay fundraiser scheduled through autumn. Sprinkled amidst the politically correct champagne conversation were whispered references to Palm Springs timeshares, Cajun brunches and yes, junk bonds.

Invitations to the *soiree intime* summoned guests to join **Phill Wilson** and **Chris Brownlie** at their ramshackle-chic home in celebration of "nine years of commitment and two years with AIDS," a sweet 'n sour acknowledgement of how love can thrive amidst anguish.

For an old radical like Brownlie, this gathering of gay glitteratti must have seemed an odd place to end up after his years of anti-establishmentarianism. But success is the ultimate objective of any movement, and celebration is as much encouragement to as reward for success.

Present at the December 18 party was a swarm of black lesbian and gay activists including **Dennis Odums**, (first black) co-chair of the board of directors of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center; **Deborah Johnson**, and her Latina lover, **Zandy Rolon**, co-founders of the Motivational Institute (and victors of the famous Papa Choux Restaurant lawsuit, which established that same-sex couples cannot be discriminated against in restaurants); **Charles Stewart**, chief deputy to State Senator Diane Watson; **Chi Hughes**, former deputy director of GLCSC; now project director of AIDS Hospice Foundation, and her Pilipina lover, **Honey Ranario**; and **Kevin Jones** of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

Some of the other luminaries present included **Torie Osborn** (first female) executive director of GLCSC and her significant other, Attorney **Sheila James Kuehl**, formerly "Zelda" on the old *Dobbie Gillis Show*; **Michael Weinstein**, founder and executive director of AHF and his lover, **Albert Ruiz**; **Jean Conger**, executive director of Southern California for Understanding; **John Brown**, former executive director of GLCSC; **Sandy Dwyer**, publisher of *The News*; **Doug Noble**, deputy state attorney and former co-chair of BWMT/LA; and **Bill Weinberger**, past president of Lawyers for Human Rights, subject of a recent *Herald-Examiner* article on out-of-the-closet gay professionals.

You know the hosts. Or you should. Wilson is the erstwhile co-chair of BWMT/LA and founder of BGLLF which produces the annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference. Wilson, 32 and bearing a more than passing resemblance to O.J. Simpson, is a consultant on gay, black and AIDS issues for several government and private concerns.

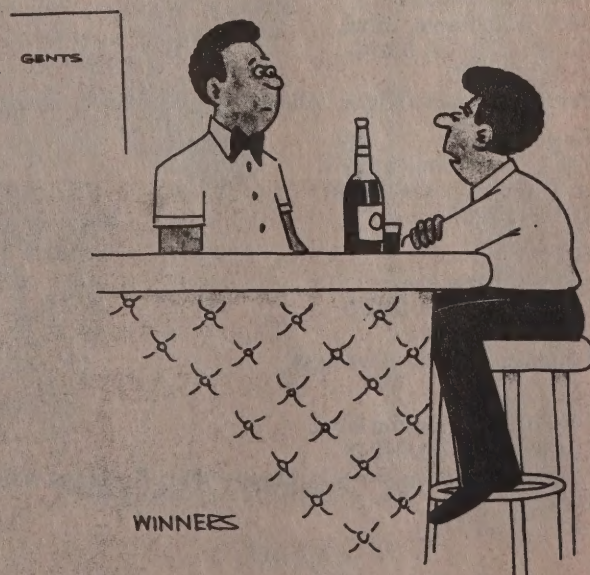
Brownlie, a boardmember of AHF, is the namesake of a just-opened hospice, and author of the insightful "Liberation Politics" column in *The News*. Brownlie has become Mr. PWA in the local media; whenever a pithy comment on life with AIDS in an uncaring cosmopolis is needed, the press will solicit a Brownlie quote. It was his

impassioned testimony before an L.A. County Commission which is widely credited with embarrassing the County's unsympathetic Board of Supervisors into funding care for PWAs.

They tied the knot nine years ago in Chicago, and with the help of some of Southern California's Best and Brightest, tightened it a little bit last December.

**SPEAKING OF THINGS GETTING TIGHT**, looks like **Bevan Dufty** will soon be out of a job. But if he knew, Bevan never let on during his jammin' New Year's Day soul food party that his boss, Councilman **Zev Yaroslavsky**, was about to dump his foolhardy campaign to supplant **Tom Bradley** as Mayor in the April 4th election. **Bevan**, the first black Co-Chair of MECLA, L.A.'s gay PAC, has been on the stump for Zev since August as a paid campaigner. But some of us hope he will now re-enlist with ex-boss Congressman **Julian Dixon**, and help ready him to become L.A. County's first black Supervisor.

**SHORTIES**. Was it really necessary for **Arsenio Hall** to wonder out loud on one of his recent shows if **James Brown** would become "the homecoming queen of Cellblock H"?...**Patti LaBelle** saluted **Sylvester** with an AIDS benefit concert on behalf of the Shanti Project in San Francisco January 20...The diva at the Minority AIDS Project continues to gather awards from practically everywhere. Christopher Street West, the West Hollywood parade people, have made **Rev. Carl Bean** their Man of the Year for 1989. He joins the likes of **Troy Perry**, **Leonard Matlovich**, **Dorr Legg** and **Eric Rofes**, a few past recipients of the award. The Valley Business Alliance gave Rev a plaque, probably for reminding them of how hard it is for the rich to get into Heaven. And the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church awarded him their Lazarus Project Award which goes annually to the person who did the most to effect "reconciliation between the gay and the non-gay worlds." Anyway, he received his plaque at a Sheraton Townhouse banquet January 29. Glad some Anglo gay organizations are giving Carl his due now, 'cuz we remember when only we thought he was special and they groaned to see him coming.



"I've got ten inches, a big house, a big car and lots of money, but he'd still rather have L.L. Cool J."



# Community Directory

Please let BLK know of any changes or additions that should be made to this Community Directory.

## BARS AND BATHS

### Annex\*

835 S. LaBrea Ave.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-671-7323

### Basgo's\*

3909 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-664-1929

### The Californian Club Nu-Vo\*\*\*\*†

1755 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90062  
213-299-2929

### Caper Room\*\*\*

244 S. Market St.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
213-677-0403  
Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male Exotic Dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free Buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.

### Catch One\*\*\*

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-1159  
Sundays 4-8 p.m. Women's Tea Dance; Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.

### Cottage\*\*\*†

5050 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-935-5540

### Cover Girl Club\*\*\*\*†

9300 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90230  
213-870-1595  
Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)

### Eagle\*

7864 Santa Monica Blvd.  
W. Hollywood, CA 90046  
213-654-3252

### Griff's\*

4216 Melrose Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213-660-0889  
Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.

### Horizon\*\*\*

3416 W. Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018  
Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Tuesdays Welfare Night

### Jewel's Room\*\*\*

4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-737-1159  
Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.

### Midtowne Spa\*\*

615 S. Kohler St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90021  
213-680-1838  
Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price, 8 p.m. until Dancing downstairs; Wednesdays 8 p.m. Drawing for \$50 first prize; Fridays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs, 10 p.m. Erotic dance show; Saturdays 8 p.m. Dancing downstairs.

### Rage\*

8911 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90069  
213-652-7596

### Study\*\*

1723 N. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-464-9551  
Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour

## RESTAURANTS

### Carriage Trade\*

8225 Beverly Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
213-655-6425

### Casita de Campo\*

1920 Hyperion Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-662-4255

### Crest\*

3725 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
213-660-3645

\*Slightly black

\*\*Significantly black

\*\*\*Almost all black

\*\*\*\*Whites are shot on sight

†Mixed gay and straight

## ORGANIZATIONS

### Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group

168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201  
Los Angeles, CA 90008  
Saturdays 5 p.m.

### Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 6 p.m.



**Alcoholism Center for Women**

1147 S. Alvarado St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90006  
213-381-7805

Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**

Box 29812  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
213-667-2549  
Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-274-3398  
1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Jack**

Box 83515  
Los Angeles, CA 90083-0515  
213-338-1516

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**

1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110  
W. Hollywood, CA 90069  
213-652-3894  
2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together**

Los Angeles Chapter  
7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136  
West Hollywood, CA 90046  
213-664-4716  
Saturdays 7 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 1st Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering Committee Meeting (location varies)

**Black and White Men Together**

National Organization  
584 Castro St. #140  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415-431-1976

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-664-0234, 213-274-3398

**Gentlemen Concerned**

Box 712298  
Bunker Hill Station  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

**Makeda**

1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129  
Los Angeles, CA 90016  
213-935-4105  
Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" Black Women Support Group.

**Minority AIDS Project**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking Support Group; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS Support Group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); Fridays 1 p.m. Family Members of AIDS Patients Support Group.

**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**

19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48219  
313-537-0484

**United Fellowship Church**

5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90019  
213-936-4949  
Sundays 11:30 a.m. Worship Service; Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study; Saturdays 12:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**

4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B  
Compton, CA 90221  
213-639-3068

**Womyn of Colors**

1213 N. Highland Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90038  
213-464-7400, ext. 205  
Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**

9001 Keith Ave.  
West Hollywood, CA 90069  
213-274-3398

**Z and Z Productions**

4153 Garden Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90039  
213-663-6340



*"It's not what you think, honey. She's a lesbian  
and I brought her home for you."*



**NOW IN (619)**  
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**Bringing The  
Gay Community  
Together —  
For Good Times!**

\$2 plus toll if any.

24 hrs. No minors.



# Classifieds

## SERVICES

Top-notch, no-nonsense professional psychic counselor offers heart-felt, in-depth guidance on your major concerns. Money accepted only if your needs are met. 1989 forecast included. (Introductory discount available.) Jerry 213-665-3479. (3)

## EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Black gay male seeking light cleaning jobs. Reasonable rates possible other things. Call 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Charles 213-622-9635. (4)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

BLK needs people in the following categories. ADVERTISING SALES: Two people to sell advertising space on a commission basis. NEWS: Reporters to handle special assignments. All positions part time. Women especially encouraged to apply. BLK, Box 83812, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Call Alan at 213-410-0808. (TF)

Blackstar II. The agency of the stars is now representing the new generation of huge black men. 213-460-6309.

## WANTED

Phallic Science Church needs: rolltop desk, used/new legal and letter file cabinet (two drawers to three drawers), and a photographer for nude models and videos. Write C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Your nude black and white photos welcomed. (TF)

## FOR SALE

1975 BMW, great condition. Must sell now. \$2700 or best offer. 213-665-3479. Jerry. (3)

1973 Mercury Montego MX BRO. Red with white interior. Runs good and very dependable. 8-cylinder with air conditioning. Needs radio and vinyl top. Interested? Call me for test run evenings. \$600 or best offer. Dennis 213-731-3659. (TF)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Black actor, musician, very good looking, former gourmet cook and property manager seeks room and board in exchange for household duties. References on request. Call Bert 818-888-5015, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. only.

Black and clean to share small bachelor apt. very near ocean in Venice. \$150 wk. Very nice, many extras. Call anytime 213-396-4761. Sincere, masculine, good looking.

Blk man w/ ocean vu vacation timeshare condo for sale. Must sell quickly. Keith at 213-305-7032. (TF)

## MODELS

Black College Jock. 24 years old, 6'1", 170 lbs., hung, cut and thick. Safe and clean. Into most scenes. Call Lee at 213-739-8781.

Hot black man, 10" hung, 31 years, 5'10", 155 lbs., hard body, safe in LA, Gardena area. In \$40, out \$50. Call Dave 213-779-6829. 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

## MASSEURS

Very attractive body builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

Hands: Rick: An extraordinary guy to meet. Chippendale masseur and physical trainer. Reach for the best and enjoy it. 818-506-6821. (Male and female.) (3)

## PERSONALS

Attractive, sincere French guy, 29, 5'11", 175, muscular, uncut, seeks tall, massive, hunky, black bodybuilder over 200 lbs. for friendship. Box 456, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90046 (4)

Blond bottom, 6'4", 200, 45; wants thin 18-28. 213-281-6138. (6)

Black, black and pretty brown males: A sincere GBM, age 47 (looks 35), 5'7", 219, is looking for a friend into clean living. I like solid-built, masculine, black males, one-on-one, non-effeminate, intelligent and caring. D.P., Box 84174, Los Angeles, CA 90073. (3)

18 yr. butch GWM seeks young, muscular, masculine BM. Steven, 15167 Magnolia Blvd., Suite D, Sherman Oaks, 91403. Enclose a picture please. (Will be returned.) (3)

Attractive GBM, 28, very lonely, seeks masculine GM, 30-45 years for dating relationship must be warm, sincere, able to travel. Photo a plus. Brent Harris, 2800 Broadway #3, Box 118, Sacramento, CA 95817. (TF)

Athletic black male, 5'10", solid build, seeks other black men who are athletic, masculine, in good physical shape and mature in spirit. Must be into safe sex only. Call and leave message. 213-750-6361. (TF)

A very handsome middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6:00 p.m. (3)

TLC for gentle BM. Lonely? Looking for someone who cares? Tall, slender, gentle WM, 43, dark hair and eyes, HIV negative, seeks slim, av-blk BM under 45 for romance, and drug-free, safe & sane good times. Interests include foreign travel, piano, photography, classical music, the arts. Interested in meeting? Write: 11020 Ventura Blvd. #118, Studio City, CA 91604. (3)

I love black men. Let's start with a letter. Me: Latin man, 28, 5'6", 130 lbs., 28" waist, smooth body. You: black, masculine, big, any age. Picture please. (Will return.) Write to: Carlos Alonso, 1770 N. Highland Ave. #644, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (4)

Blond hunk seeks young thin top. Box 75441, LA 90075. (6)

WM, 38, seeks BM 22-42 for one-to-one. R.F., Box 1247, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. (3)

Attractive GWM, twenty-something, seeks masculine GBM, twenty or thirty-something, for loving relationship. We are



healthy, caring, intelligent, fun, safe. Call Rick, 213-668-0233. (3)

White boy, 29, 6', 180, seeks large, muscular, dominant Black Master to teach my bottom Black Discipline. Safe sex is a must. Box 70691, Pasadena, CA 91107. (4)

Puerto Rican, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs., seeking daytime masculine black-Latins hung fat to please. Willie 213-657-2539. (6)

Zachary: formerly Wherehouse, formerly Lyman Place. Where are you? Please write: DK, Box 42294, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (3)

GWM, dominant dad, handsome, 60, top seeks creative sucker under 45, any race. Hairy, a plus. No booze/drugs. Photo/phone. Box 155, 8721 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (4)

Seduce Me: Husky Scandinavian, blue-eyed blond, brd/-must; 40, 6', 210#, pasvly domnt, cigarette smoker. Seek relationship w/stable G/A, F/A/P, 27-37 man w/dark gdlks, gdbld. Fun, good (safe) sex. Future. Photo & phone: DK, Box 42294, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (3)

Black, Latin or Asian man wanted to hang out with WM, 39. We share these traits: non-smoker, straight-appearing, health-oriented, physically-active, self-reliant, responsible, romantic, sensual. Art 213-674-9032 anytime.

Good looking professional Latin male seeks boyfriend for dating, safe sex, possible lover. Me: 43, 5'6", 150 lbs., hot bottom. You: 30-45, hot, hung top looking for a real relationship. Masculine and in-shape only. Black and Latins + +. Call evenings. 213-258-6318.

I want black top. GWM, 5'9", 160 lbs. seeks good looking, well hung black man who likes to fuck (condom). Call Raymond 213-382-3186.

BM, 47 years old, 5'8", 140 lbs. seeks friendship. 213-732-8591. Robert.

Good looking black Sagittarius 5'10", 145 lbs., looking for a good looking masculine Leo or Aries, 34 to 40 years young, 5'10" up. Let^s share life together. Coty 213-755-8848. (3)

Hot white sucker, 32, seeks blacks 50+. B.B., Box 10501, Glendale, CA 91209-3501.

Young black wanted. You: 18+, small, thin and hairless, in need of caring father-image and possible lover. Me: 40, handsome top, who wants cute buddy and friend. Call 213-936-0200, ext 5011.

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

Black man, masculine, interested in meeting intelligent and comical other black males for conversation and good times. Chuck 213-382-6943. (TF)

24-year-old, 5'7", small athletic build, seeks relationship with caring, intelligent, non-effeminate man. Write E. Christo, Box 71123, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (TF)

Sincere GBM, age 26, 6'5", 215 lbs., looking for a good "safe" friend. Masculine types of close or similar stature please respond. If you love tennis, good music, and the movies, plus the companionship of another gay brother, write Michael J., 7549 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046. (TF)

Hot, attractive, 39-year-old male, outgoing and intelligent, seeks masculine, mature black male for one-to-one relationship. Safe sex only. Call C.B., 714-682-4685, Riverside, California. (TF)



# ROOMMATE MATCHERS

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(213) 655-5944

S.F. VALLEY  
(818) 780-1446  
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We're LA's  
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largest Gay  
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Roommate  
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roommate  
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ACTION OF  
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

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# MEET HOT MEN!

## OVER 3000 INTROS PER DAY!



California's #1 **All-Gay** Intro Line!



**IN N.Y. CALL 970-WOLF!**

45¢ per minute, 95¢ 1st minute.

### MORE POPULAR THAN EVER!

Hear Personals  
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### THE TALKING PERSONALS FOR FAST CONNECTIONS!

**24 Hours Of Fun!**

\$2 plus toll  
No Minors



# MIDTOWNE SPA



**"Serving the  
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For Over 20  
Years"**

## **WE NEVER CLOSE**

**24 hours a day there's  
someone here for you!**

A safe place to come . . .

A clean place to come . . .

A fun place to come . . .

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# BLK

Number





# MINORITY A.I.D.S. PROJECT



Starring

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REVEREND CARL BEAN

NATALIE COLE

HON. MAXINE WATERS

PERRI TAUREAN BLAQUE

CLIFTON DAVIS

THELMA HOUSTON

THE SWEET INSPIRATIONS

KEITH PRINGLE

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PENTECOSTAL COMMUNITY CHOIR

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(213) 936-4949

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A SPECIAL SURPRISE GUEST!

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ANNUAL  
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BENEFIT



# WORD UP

## Handwriting on the Hall

In a cover story article that very carefully documents Arsenio Hall's attraction to and by women, Barry Michael Cooper in the *Village Voice* writes: "But all of the female ogling don't mean a thing to Arsenio because, according to homeboys and homegirls in the know, 'he's a *homo*, right?' Arsenio pushes the limits of his public persona, flipping back and forth between a hard-rock gangster swagger and a campy, finger-snapping parody of the swishing, bandanna-wearin', don't-try-it-girl black gay man. His sexual energy allows him to play both the transvestite in *Coming to America*, looking like a mako shark in mascara, and a slimy, skirt-chasing preacher. Arsenio stands on top of the fence, always ready to lean in either direction to set up the next punchline, always catching himself at the last second before he falls."

## Double Take the Bus

With an initial inventory of donated works by Picasso, Pollock and Warhol, among others, Art Against AIDS, a project of the American Foundation for AIDS Re-



**Arsenio Hall**

search, raised \$2.5 million for medical research, patient services and public education. But then AmFAR is truly big time. Liz Taylor, no less, is national chairman.

Art Against AIDS/On the Road which together with Art Against AIDS/San Francisco, just ended a run in the Bay Area are both AmFAR projects. The local exhibition of specially created works by 22 artists benefited, among others, the AIDS Minority Health Initiative in Oakland. Next, the

show moves to Washington, D.C., then to Chicago, Minneapolis and Atlanta.

"Kissing Doesn't Kill," a bus panel by Grand Fury was among the works exhibited.

## Tending the Garden

The land on which Madison Square Garden in New York now rests once belonged to a black woman, Annie d'Angola.

## Products Cause Love, Nix Evil

The Mysteria Products Company of Arlington, Texas (Box 1466-B, zip 76004) sells a number of products designed to improve your love life and protect you from evil. Included in the company's 24-page catalog are the following:

K5002—Keep Your Lover Faithful—This kit has the power to make your lover think of only you! You will have him (or her) where you want them. \$9.00.

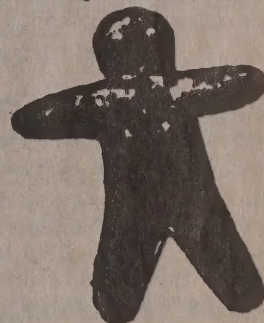
K8005—Keep My Man (or Woman) Home—If you want your loved one at home with you every night, we believe this will be the answer. \$19.95.

A1160—Break Up—Use to anoint a Break Up candle (C8160—\$6.00) when you want to break up a man and a woman,

two men friends, two relatives that are causing trouble, or even a business situation you'd like to break up. Powerful when used with Break Up Bath and Floor Wash (E1160—\$3.00). 1/2 oz. bottle \$2.25.

A1470—Love Drops—Use at the back of the ears, on the neck and on the breast to cause a loved one to want to be near you. 1/2 oz. bottle \$2.25.

M1170—Black Doll—Use for protection, re-



versing evil, many uses. \$6.00.

M1427—Love Box—Has your love gone away? Or, have you had no luck at finding a loved one? Is your mate straying and you'd like to have him or her true to only you? Use the Love Box and find love, keep your loved one faithful, and get him or her to come back to you if they're gone! Everything you need to use is included. The Love Box comes with complete instructions. \$17.95.

They accept MasterCard and Visa.

KISSING DOESN'T KILL: GREED AND INDIFFERENCE DO.





# BLK BOARD

To have your event put on the Blk Board, contact Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the August issue is July 21, 1989. The Blk Board is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are Blk Listed.

Blk Board also acts as a Master Calendar for the black gay community so that scheduling conflicts between events can be minimized. Blk keeps information on both firm and tentative events. Contact us either to let us know the details of your organization's event, or to determine if any other events are already scheduled for a particular day.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1989

Exodus Travel Service will hold a party for Bernard, a candidate for Emperor XVII of the South Bay Imperial Court. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-285-8619.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1989

Rev. Carl Bean will be honored as Christopher Street West/Los Angeles's Man of the Year in ceremonies at West Hollywood Park, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, W. Hollywood, Calif. 3 p.m.

The 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," will be held at West Hollywood Park, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, W. Hollywood, Calif. Sat., June 24, Noon-Midnight. Sun., June 25, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventists Kinship International is sponsoring its First Annual Kinship Kampmeeting Karavan beginning in San Diego with its final destination the Tenth Annual Kinship Kampmeeting in the Portland, Oregon area. The Karavan will stop in Los Angeles for a kickoff rally and vegetarian potluck picnic June 24, 1989. For more information call 213-876-2076 or write Box 3840-K,



"I don't care if this is just a dream. Either you put on a rubber or take your hands off my ass."

Los Angeles, CA 90078-3840.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1989

Maxine Waters will appear as Grand Marshall of the 1989 Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," sponsored by Christopher Street West/Los Angeles. Parking available at the Pacific Design Center. 12:30 p.m.

Ronald S. Johnson, director of the Minority AIDS Task Force, and Barbara Smith, founder of Kitchen Table Press, will be among the speakers at "Celebration 20! The Rally." The rally will include speeches, music and entertainment. Central Park, Great Lawn, New York, N.Y. 2-6 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 1989

"Monarch Show" featuring the current Emperor and Empress of the Imperial Court of South Bay. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$5. 213-671-7323.

The Second Conference of Anti-Homophobia Education, "Ending Heterosexuality and Homophobia: Strategies, Networking and Support," will explore, among other things, "the relationships between racism, sexism and homophobia." Separate support groups for women of color and men of color will meet during the conference. UCLA Conference Center, 310 DeNeve Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. June 30-July 3, 1989. Fees vary depending on registration date. For more information contact Jeff Beane at 213-273-6375 (California) or Mary Jo Osterman at 312-864-2840 (Illinois), or write Box 819, Cambridge, MA 02139.

## SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1989

45th Birthday Celebration for Rev. Carl Bean. Also the kickoff for "Coming Home for Friends Week." Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-6 p.m. \$10 single tickets, \$45 individual sponsorships (includes 2 tickets), \$450 organizational sponsorships (includes 10 tickets).

The Ninth Annual Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together will take place July 2-8, 1989 at the Florida State University Center for Professional Development in Tallahassee, Florida. For more information contact BWMT Tallahassee/Big Bend Florida, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3321. 904-681-9499.

Black-oriented programming in IMRU's 12th annual Lesbian and Gay Day readings are "Joey Flyer and the Fabulous Free Flowing Flyers" at 6:30 p.m., "Black Lesbian Trio: Pat Parker, Cheryl Clarke and Audre Lorde produced by Ayofemi Stowe Folan" at 8:15 p.m. and "A Tribute to Sylvester by Richard Stokes" at 11 p.m. KPFFK, 90.7 FM.

Pre-4th of July Celebration. This event will also introduce new Caper Room bartenders, Davenport, Mark and Ken. Bartenders for the evening will be Miss Face and PeeWee. Caper Room, 244 Market St., Inglewood, Calif. 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

## MONDAY, JULY 3, 1989

Thelma Houston will perform at "Disco Deja Vu," a fundraiser for AIDS Services of Orange County. No host bar. New York style hot dogs. Club Post Nuclear, 775 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, Calif. 9 p.m. \$30 in advance, \$40 at door. 714-380-9154.



Pre-4th of July Men's Night Special. Sidney and Alfred are DJs. Also: Birthday party for Billy. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1989**

July 4th Celebration. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 3 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1989**

Dionne Warwick will headline "Coming Home for Friends II," a redux of last year's gospel concert and benefit for Minority AIDS Project. Shrine Auditorium, 649 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-936-4949.

"Creating Personal Power Objects" workshop. Facilitator: Rosalie Ortega. Lapis/Lesbians of Color, Alcholoism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$10 for supplies. No one turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call Milagros at 213-381-7805, noon-5 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1989**

Wellfare Tuesday 4th Anniversary. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, JULY 16, 1989**

Gentlemen Concerned present their annual garden party honoring fundraising contributors at the Los Angeles Wilshire Ebell, 741 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-7 p.m. \$50 minimum donation. For tickets, write to Gentlemen Concerned, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Station, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

Pool Party sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. 1 p.m. \$3 members, \$5 non-members. Call Rene at 213-664-4716 for location.

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1989**

Joint reception for Gil Gerald, new executive director of the Minority AIDS Project and Jim Petzke, new executive director of the Homestead Hospice and Shelter. AIDS Project Los Angeles, 6721 Romaine St., Los Angeles, Calif. 6-8 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1989**

"Culturally Sensitive Issues," one of a series of weekly lunch hour education forums for people with AIDS and HIV disease, staff, volunteers and the general public. AIS Project Los Angeles, 6721 Romaine St., Los Angeles, Calif. Noon-1 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1989**

The second biannual Adodi Retreat entitled, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS," will take place July 21-23, 1989 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, a village 30 miles outside Philadelphia. For additional information, contact Larry Hadley at 215-662-1755, Cliff Rawlins at 215-727-1084 or write Adodi, Box 19132, Philadelphia, Penn. 19103.

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1989**

Photography Playshop. Lapis/Lesbians of Color, Alcholoism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$20 for supplies. No one turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call Milagros or Billie at 213-381-7805, noon-5 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1989**

Annual Catalina Boat Cruise sponsored by Catch One Disco. This year the cruise will have a Hawaiian theme. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$15 ticket includes after-hours admission to Catch One. For more information, call Carlton at 213-737-1159.

## **Next Month in BLK An Interview with Jewel Williams Owner of Catch One and Jewel's Room**

## **News of the BLK Family**

Lompoc, California resident A. J. Benny, joins the BLK art department as staff cartoonist. Currently a offset press operator, Benny has worked on a number of small magazines including the base newspaper when he was in the Air Force.

## **Corrections & Omissions**

Although he was not pictured in the photograph of the group that attended the "Hot, Horney and Healthy" training workshop [BLK, June 1979], Randy Schultz did attend and participate.

# **BLK**

Number 8, July 1989

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**Cover:** Rev. Carl Bean



# Pat Parker

*Noted black lesbian writer and activist dies following battle with illness*

**By Ayofemi Stowe Folayan**

Wednesday, June 21, 1989 was the annual summer solstice, that point in the celestial calendar that marks the longest day in the year. The gift of extra daylight was appropriate: one of the leading lights in the constellation of lesbian luminaries had dimmed with the death of writer and activist Pat Parker the preceding Saturday. Like the cavernous "black holes" in space, those super-charged masses of energy that no longer directly transmit their starlight directly to earth, Pat Parker leaves behind a legacy of words and deeds that will continue to resonate long into the future.

I had the good fortune to provide transportation for Pat during her last visit to Southern California in March of this

## REMEMBRANCE

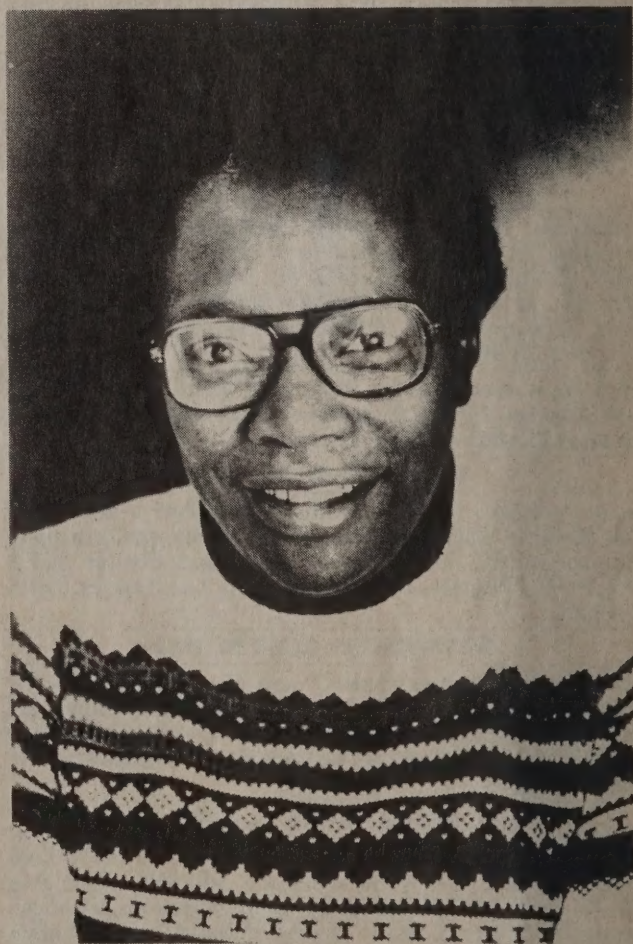
year, when she read as part of the Celebration of Women's History at California State University, Los Angeles with poet Cheryl Clarke. This reading was especially important to Pat, because she would have a chance to fulfill a longtime desire to share the stage with her two sisters, Ethel and Diane, in the reading of her narrative poem, "Movement in Black." Her excitement and nervousness were evident as she rehearsed the quartet of readers (which also included her niece and myself). During the actual reading, Pat was clearly bursting with pride as she introduced her sisters to the audience.

The passionate connection with her family is also illustrated in the epic poem, "Womanslaughter," which recounts the murder of Pat's third sister. Many of Pat Parker's poems also celebrate her relationship with her partner. Parker also had two children, and during her visit to Southern California she made a point of finding special gifts for them.

Pat Parker reached out in a loving and inclusive way to people all over the country in her writing and public appearances. She always had time to talk with members of the audience after readings or to respond personally to letters. She frequently reminded us all by her example of the importance of mentorship within our community, passing on to others the information and experience she had accumulated from her participation in community organizations as diverse as the Black Panthers and the Feminist Women's Health Center.

Her poetry addressed issues of liberation and empowerment as well as publicly asking dangerous questions, such as "What really happened in Jonestown (where 900 mostly black people, many from the Northern California area, supposedly "committed suicide" in November of 1978)? A prolific author, Parker's published works included *Pit Stop*, *Womanslaughter*, *Movement in Black*, and *Jonestown and Other Madness*. She also created a record album with feminist author Judy Grahn.

On her final night here in Los Angeles, Pat arrived at her



**Pat Parker**

reading decked out in her "Texas shitkicker" outfit, complete with leather boots and an enormous broad-brimmed black "cowgirl" hat. She read some of her poetry, then struggled through handwritten notes in her journal to share a short story about being caught by her father making love with another girl when she was an adolescent. The audience was enveloped by the magic of Parker's voice and words.

After the reading, we went to The Connection, a local women's bar. There, Pat Parker played darts and Ms. PacMan with the same full-throttle intensity that was the hallmark of her life and work. I am grateful that my own life was illuminated by her energy and vision. As a writer and activist, it inspires me to carry on the torch she bore with such inspiration.



# BEING ALIVE

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# Rev. Carl Bean

*Perhaps the most important black gay AIDS activist in the entire world*

**By Revon Kyle Banneker**

*It's not any day, nor even any lifetime, that one meets a man like Carl Bean.*

*Perhaps it's the glowing smile, the wise disposition, or that resonant, reassuring minister's voice we remember hearing and revering as kids. Whatever it is that makes the impression, after a handshake and a few moments of conversation with Rev. Bean, you know you've connected with someone.*

*A charismatic leader with a knack for getting things done, Rev. Bean in a few short years has founded and carried the Unity Fellowship Church*

## THE BLK INTERVIEW

*and the Minority AIDS Project (MAP) to nearly institutional status in Los Angeles' black gay community.*

*The man has a talent for inspiring those around him to exceed their potential. Many young blacks credit him for their conquest of drugs and streetlife, or with discovery and acceptance of who they are. Rev. Bean brings to his work a background rich in black culture, steeped in the gay experience, decorated with musical talent, and with roots sunk deep in the teachings of the church.*

*To be sure, the Reverend has his share of doubters and detractors, but they appear to be far outnumbered by those who regard him as a savior and a visionary.*

*In two interviews with Rev. Bean, BLK explored the make-up of this self-avowed black gay minister who has made a difference in the spiritual lives of many and given birth to a minority institution that is being celebrated from Watts to Washington, D.C.*

**U**ntil now, you've been the pastor of Unity Fellowship Church and the executive director of the Minority AIDS Project, both entities that you founded. We understand that on June 1 you stepped down as executive director of MAP. What is the reason?

Actually, I didn't be step down as much as stepped up. My new title is chief executive officer of Unity Fellowship Ministries. MAP's reins will be taken over by Gil Gerald, who was executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. We are friends and founding members of the National Minority AIDS Council.

Was the change of responsibilities your idea or MAP's board of directors?

My idea. I've been asking for help for a long time. MAP has grown so much, and my church has grown just as much over the same time period. MAP is an outreach

project of the church, that I became so involved in that I found myself shorting my congregation. It seems every week or so I was on a plane to give a speech or ask for funds somewhere. I became a national spokesperson for AIDS in the black community, and I've had to turn down a lot of speaking engagements already this year. Now I can be in L.A. more, doing what a minister should be doing—things like visiting hospital wards and prisons, and seeing after the needs of the church and congregation. Now I can really be Rev. Bean. There's so much to be done. I could have counseling sessions with gay church members all day; there are young people who want to go into the ministry whom I need to help; we're in the process of developing a Sunday school.

As CEO, technically you would still be over Mr. Gerald and have the last word concerning MAP matters, correct?

Yes. And my office will be in the same place and I will remain on the board of MAP. But remember, we have several other outreach programs in the works that will operate more or less parallel with MAP. For example, we've made great progress with a latch key program for youth, a drug rehabilitation program, an incest survivors' group, and a home for women with AIDS who have children.

If you coordinate all of that, will you still have time for your church?

Yes, since all of those programs will have people like Mr. Gerald mainly responsible for them.

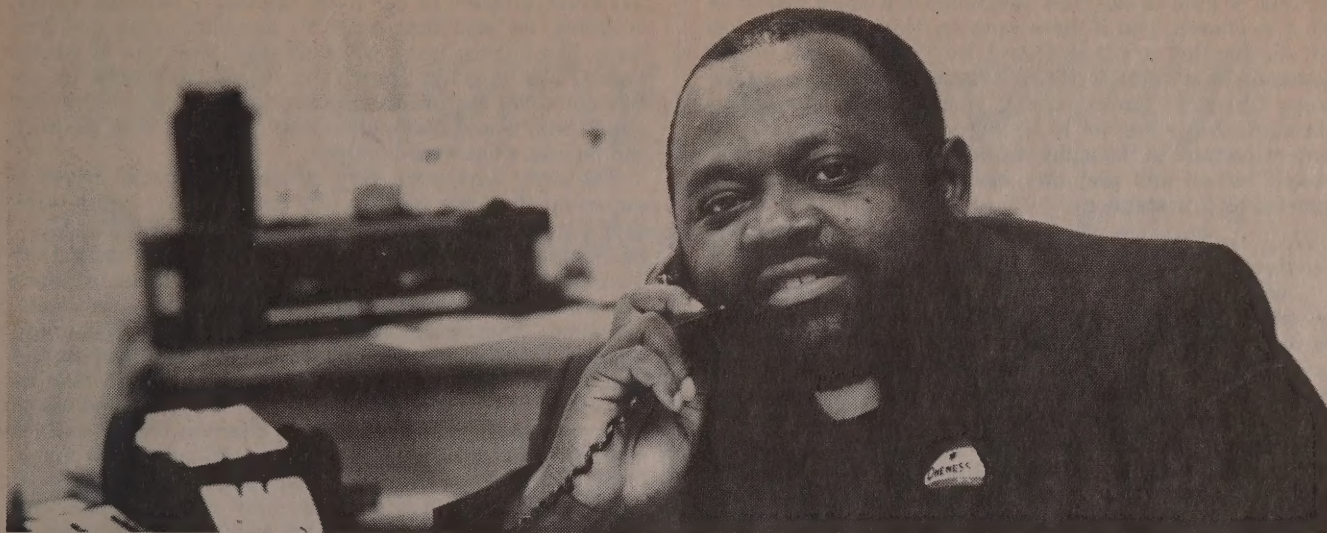
Apparently, all of the inner city AIDS support organizations, including MAP, initially were not refunded this year because of poor proposals or something. In the case of MAP, do you think that the fact that you were spreading yourself thin is part of the reason MAP wasn't funded?

No. Our proposals were on time and were written very well. After loud complaints were heard, the funding agencies explained that the funds were not dispensed correctly in the beginning, but they overturned their decisions. They said that two or three proposals were up to par, one of which was obviously ours, so we were funded. They did say that several proposals were not written well at all, but they wouldn't name which ones.

It's unfortunate that happened, but it goes back to the old thing about legalities and technicalities that a black-run operation may not be aware of. Many people who would like to help don't know the system, and the system was not created with them in mind. The system must bend to accommodate all. For example, you might have a woman who is the most caring, loving, and honest human being in the world, and the best person in the world to care for someone sick. But the funding will go to the one who can write the best proposal, which probably means it won't go to her.

Everything you're doing here started with your founding





Rev. Carl Bean. Photo by Terry Johnson.

*of the Unity Fellowship Church. What brought about your decision to start a gay-oriented church?*

I've never been one to say "Yes, I know this match is burning me but I'm going to ignore this fire." When I started the church it was out of that need or desire to do something to help people know their place in creation, their place in life, their right to a spiritual path, their right to their belief in their culture, their right to a place of worship where they are free and comfortable and don't have to masquerade as someone else.

I went to people and asked about the idea of a gay-oriented church, and I kept getting "yes," and "great." That was in 1984. In 1985 we started Bible study on Monday nights in a black lesbian's home. There were four or five of us then, but it kept growing week to week. After a while her living room was not large enough, and then her living and dining room together were not large enough. Soon we organized formally and got our tax-exempt status. We had our first church service at the Cockatoo Inn in Inglewood. About that time we wanted to broadcast our existence. We thought of advertising in the gay rags, naturally, but I wanted to also advertise in the *Sentinel*. Everyone said no, it wouldn't work, but we sent in a notice anyway. To our surprise, the *Sentinel* printed it prominently. We were blown away. It was like the time had come.

*Is Unity Fellowship for gays only?*

Not at all. Heterosexuals, too. Whole families have joined.

*Does being a self-avowed gay man in the ministry present problems for you?*

No. Because I know who I am. There was a time when I had to deal with reconciling differences. I was a believer in the teachings of Jesus since a young boy. Later, when I learned about my sexuality, and the church saying I couldn't be who I am and still be loved by God—I spent many wasted years trying to find a place to run to where I could be human, accepted, and OK. Some of those years were spent trying to change me to be something that I was never going to be. It took years to find myself.

*Have you had formal training in theology?*

Yes. My training has been a life-long thing. At a very early age I was fortunate enough to be sent to Virginia Union in an accelerated course at about age 10. I was always a part of the Baptist World Youth Seminars, the kid that would win the Bible drills, and the kids that

would win for developing programming for Baptist training unions. Later, I left gospel singing for a while and enrolled in Bible college in the mountains of Jersey. I started doing correspondence courses. It was always an evolving thing for me. On Broadway I was introduced to the *Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peal. When I came to California I joined MCC [Metropolitan Community Church], because it was the first I'd ever heard of a liberated church dealing with gays and Christianity. I cried the first day I walked in there. I remember the day I walked in the Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center on Wilshire when it consisted of two old broken down houses. I remember then—it was about '72 or '73—we were so glad to have a place to go and just talk. We weren't concerned with race. We had rap groups of every religion and race, just loving each other so. I miss that.

And then we were being entrapped by the police and going to jail. We were afraid that if we showed too much personal feeling in a bar in those days we would be locked up.

*Did you ever go to jail?*

Yes, of course I did. I was locked up maybe four or five times.

*Was that only in California, or when you were living back East as well?*

Only here. I remember being entrapped. There was a guy smiling at me, winking, dressed very obvious with everything showing, touching his body and all. Then when I made the move to say hello, let's get something going on, out came the badge and the handcuffs. I went through all of that. I knew the need for a center for blacks.

*So you don't have a degree in theology.*

No, but I am an ordained minister.

*Doesn't the Bible say "you shouldn't be gay?"*

No, not at all. The Bible says many things. The Bible was written by people at a particular point in history. It is mostly the understanding of the day and time. It is basically the history of the Jewish people; Jesus himself was a Jew. It is a wonderful book of faith. It has all one would need, if one studies it properly, to enlighten us to proceed in a path of life. But it also has the history of the time. Women were second, third class citizens with no rights. The Bible has many references that attest to her being that, being the homemaker and staying at home. In the



writings of Paul in the New Testament a woman was to be silent in church, and if there were anything she needed to ask she couldn't ask it in church but only at home of her husband. That same writing says that slaves were to be happy Christian slaves, and if their master was also a Christian they were not to be angry or hate them, but be content because in the sight of God we are all free. Much of today's racism and prejudice against women is partially asserted by Christendom.

*Now, isn't there a reference in—I believe it's Leviticus—to the idea that man should not lie...*

...with mankind as with womankind. It also says in Leviticus that you cannot eat any parts of the pig, and if we were to follow that Levitical law then no black Baptist could be a person of faith and a believer. It also says in there that you cannot wear any garment sewn with two different types of thread, like cotton and rayon. To do that was an abomination. I mean, the list in Leviticus of thou shalt not's! Through time, and through knowledge, and through study we have found out that these things have nothing to do with the soul or loving, and some people are trying to pull one or two things out of the list that have not been changed with time, and then say all the rest of the list has been changed with time. That's hogwash!

*Are you saying we have to take the words of the Bible with a grain of salt?*

I'm saying you have to interpret it in the context of what was written, at the time it was written, and why it was written. Those people could not have accepted that we would be flying up in the sky today. I'm sure they would say we were witches and that we were not godly.

*How did the Minority AIDS Project come about?*

We've developed a slogan about this whole thing that goes "Silence=Death." I realized one day that as a black gay man who was aware of this virus, who had lost friends to it, who had to live daily with the fear of it possibly showing up in my own system some day, that if I didn't spread my knowledge then I was the silence that would spell death for others. So I HAD to do something.

MAP is an outreach of the church. We asked ourselves how we could deal with the principles of love when there's

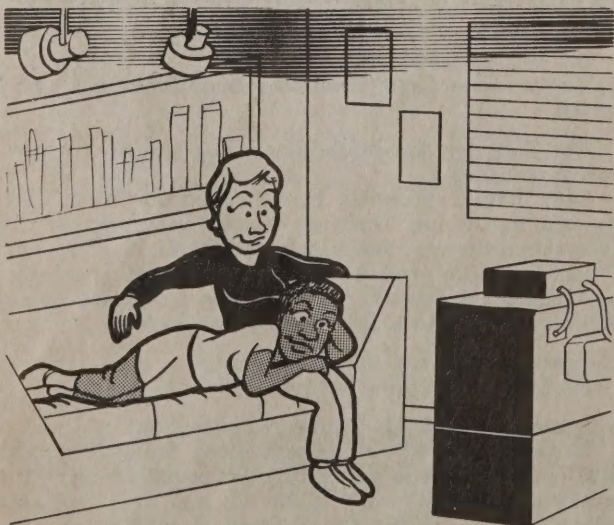
this great problem in our lives. Instead of sending money to Africa, we said that since we are black gays and lesbians, the biggest issue we must deal with now is AIDS. Nobody else is going to touch it, it will have to be us, so let's start. We started looking for money to do it with, for people who would become buddies to people with AIDS. I had no idea what would happen.

The early days were very difficult. I've never driven a car, so much of my visiting was done by bus. There were days I would get so tired from traveling from Santa Monica Hospital to Kaiser Bellflower. But I'd forget about that the minute I'd enter a room with one of my black brothers who would say, "Thank you for coming; no one ever comes to see me." That was in 1984-85 before we knew very much about it. Everyone was scared. Brothers would say how the technicians and nurses would stand outside and look in the windows of their rooms, talk about them, and leave their meals outside. I went to see a client at UCLA, and I'll never forget this little old black cleaning lady I saw there. If she hadn't come to clean that man's room, he would never have gotten his food. The lady picked up his tray from outside the room, brought it to his bed and began to feed him. She was not a technician from the dietary department, she was the cleaning lady. Some of the food had gotten cold and she even heated it in a microwave. I felt like here was one of my people that really was supposed to be mopping and emptying trash, but who stopped doing that to help someone. She didn't know about AIDS either, whether she could catch it or not. But her heart, her true commitment propelled her beyond whether she could catch it. She was humming a hymn. When I looked in her face it was saying, "I must respond to human need." Those kinds of events constantly pushed me on.

I set out to study AIDS. I canvassed everything, contacting every organization and source I could find, hungry for any tidbit of knowledge about AIDS. I began training with the Shanti organization in West Hollywood. They had asked if I'd please stay and work with them, because they had been trying to get someone from the black community. It was during their training that I first learned that blacks represented 25 percent of AIDS cases, even though we represented only about 12 percent of the population. Black women made up about 50 percent of all women affected. I said to myself, "Oh, no. I can't stay up here in West Hollywood. I gotta go home with this." I had a two-year agreement to work with them. When the time was up, the executive director said to me, "I knew when you walked through our doors that you wouldn't be able to stay, that you would have to leave. But I want you to know that I understand." He was a very spiritual man, who died himself a few years ago.

I wanted to start by going on the air to spread the word. I started calling around to black radio, asking to do one of those phone in shows, where I could tell the community what AIDS was, how you catch it, etc. Most slammed their doors tight in my face, saying, "No, that's not our problem, that's a white gay thing." After explaining things a bit to them they would still say "no." The first station that let us on was KJLH, Jackie Stevens. She said it sounded like a great show and asked if I could come in that Sunday. I did the show with a few doctors and it was fantastic. The phones rang off the hook. Later, the *L.A. Times* did a big article on us in the Sunday View section and gave my home phone number as a means of contact. That opened the floodgates. I had nothing then but a P.O. box up on Wilshire Blvd. The phone rang off the hook; the brothers had begun to call.

When that article appeared in the *Times*, I had no idea that MAP would be born out of that phone number. I had no idea I'd be sitting here today.



*"San Francisco mayor John Hansworth was accused today of being a practicing heterosexual. He angrily denied the charge."*



# Hot, Horny & Healthy!

*"A Close Encounter of the Safer Kind"*

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Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian  
Community Services Center  
1213 North Highland Hollywood

Come See How Great  
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Community Services Center  
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Horny Fun  
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Thursday July 20 7:30 P.M.  
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This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

For more information call:

**BWMT / Los Angeles: 213/664-4716**



One brother called from a Kaiser hospital and asked if I'd please come and see him. He said, "When I saw the paper today, and you were black, it was the first time I've had any hope since I've had this disease." I said I would come see him. Then he said, "There's one other thing I want to ask you. Will you please tell my family that I'm homosexual?" I told him I didn't think it was my place. He said he just couldn't do it himself, and asked if I would at least stand in the room with him, because then he might be able to tell them. I put the phone down and I was a mess. I cried for hours. I knew then that I was doing the right thing and there was no turning back.

That was the beginning.

*Where did you get funding from in those early days, before it was "popular" to run such a service?*

The first little fundraiser we had to support MAP came from a rummage sale in the parking lot of Jewel's Catch One. Prior to the sale, I had heard so many good things about Assemblywoman Maxine Waters—that she was a good human being who truly believed in liberation for everybody—so I tried to contact her for help. I told her aide I was calling about fighting AIDS in the black community. To my surprise, when I got home that evening she had called and left a message for me on my answering machine. I called her back to explain. She listened and then asked what she could do. I asked her if she could come to the rummage sale we had planned, that we weren't well organized yet but I thought her presence would encourage the people and make them know that someone cared. She said, "You got it." She not only came, she stayed three hours! She talked with me like she'd known me for years. She stayed and talked and helped sell things. She talked to the gay and lesbian folks and their mothers. No one could ever, ever make me say anything against that

woman. And she's been there ever since.

Acting on a contact she gave me, some of our first monies came from the community—from The Brotherhood Crusade. They did a press release on us that helped a lot. Bear in mind that I never forced the community to do anything. I would just lay things out and see what would happen. That's been the pattern since the start. We found our first site on Pico Blvd. west of Fairfax. The Brotherhood Crusade paid the first, last, and that month's rent.

*How large is the MAP staff?*

We have about eight salaried employees, including a registered nurse, licensed social workers, community workers, an administrative assistant, secretarial positions.

*Do you serve only blacks, and how many people would you say you've reached since inception?*

Our clients are about 50-50 black and Hispanic. I'd guess we've served more than 700 people through visits, money grants, performing funerals, support groups, and buddies. We've buried some that we never had as clients in life. We may have gotten a referral, for example, but by the time we got to the hospital the next day, the person had passed. But sometimes there's no family but we still take responsibility for the burial.

*What's MAP's budget?*

I think we are now close to about \$700,000.

*Is that the amount you need to operate on for a year?*

That's what we've gotten in grants; it pays the salaries of staff people and some of the bills.

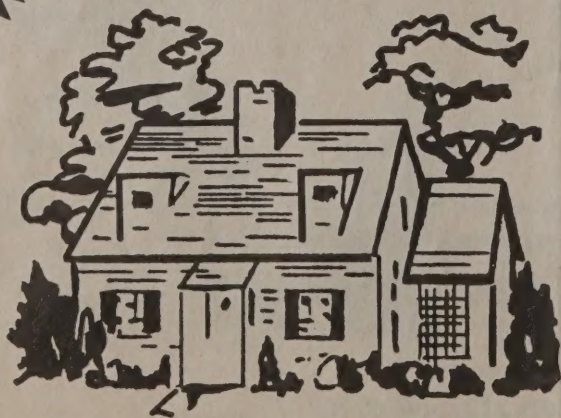
*Some of your critics have said that you don't really concentrate your efforts in the black community. Is that true?*

The proof is in the pudding. My church is black. Every Sunday 170 to 200 blacks convene here on the corner of

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Jefferson and Sycamore.

*More specifically, for example, we understand you've gone to Watts perhaps only one time, and then only because TV coverage was offered.*

We went to do that Nickerson Gardens walk through because nobody over there would do anything. You can't have it both ways. If you [a local agency] have programming in a particular part of the city, and you've got the same money I'm getting but can't even help a place you can spit on through your window, and you're not educating and they've got to come get me to do it—now who's doing what?

*Are you limited as to the geographical area you cover?*

Not at all. Come to my church. My church is filled with black folk from all over—and not with Ph.D.s and master's degrees—they're everyday black kids.

*Well, not everyone can get here, either because the bus fare isn't there or a person suffers from that state of mind that makes them deathly afraid to leave the home turf.*

I just told you I used to ride from Century City to Bellflower on the bus—to go to them! To go to them! I've never driven a car. I was eight months behind in rent at one point. The Minority AIDS Project didn't even exist then. The detractors—I have a question for them: What are they doing? What are they doing but running their mouths?

*All right, let me throw the rest of this at you. You've also been accused of being a "power hungry publicity hog."*

If I were a power hungry publicity hog I would have a paid publicist, and Rev. Carl Bean would take a salary. Rev. Carl Bean still doesn't take one. He still keeps people here so they can take care of our people. Jealousy is a terrible thing.

*They're jealous, then?*

Oh, of course they are. Jealousy is a terrible thing. Envy is a horrible thing. One of the Ten Commandments—thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house or wife or whatever—one of the reasons I think it was taught was because of what it does to a person inside. When you do in our community people lift you up—when you *do*! Not when you make speeches. You can't make speeches and get funding and have the black community lift you up. When they go somewhere and their girlfriend tells them that Rev. Bean paid our rent, when their cousin calls and says my girlfriend's boy got AIDS and Rev. Bean was down at the hospital, or the Minority AIDS Project came over and put their lights on when they were off—that's when our people respond. They've been abused so much they don't just respond because somebody puts pictures out in the community. The people have lifted me up—it was the people, not some publicity. It was the black community. It has nothing to do with power or me being hungry. The media calls you because you've done something. You're sitting in my office now because we've done something. KCET called because we're doing something. The *Sentinel* gave us that [points to award on the wall] because we're doing something—in the community. That [pointing to another] is from the National Council of Negro Women because Dorothy Hightman recognized that we're doing something. You get recognition from doing. Angry people want to get recognition from tearing down everybody else. I'm sorry—my church is filled with black lesbian and gay folk who are poor, who are fighting to maintain their sobriety. Some of them are kids who were hard core crack addicts. Come here one Sunday morning. Listen to their testimonies. They testify before I come out. You will hear the difference in their lives.

MAP gives out between \$4000 and \$8000 direct cash grants every 30 days to people that come through these

doors that need housing, food, clothing, phone bills paid. We go through everything. We see people who are substance abusers that come for money they say is for rent but then they buy crack. We have been through it. But that's why we're here. We understand our people. We understand the culture. I cannot be angry at the fact that when no one else would go, the media called on me to be on TV to round out an AIDS panel.

KCET did a national show that depicted a black man with AIDS who was a menace to society, who was tricking for \$5 to eat, who had a mother that was stealing his social security checks, and on and on. When that was over all of the AIDS agencies were sitting there looking at me. Who was it that it fell on? Rev. Carl Bean and his black community that was not responding to AIDS. I had to think quick, pray, anything to try to respond to this thing so it wasn't an embarrassment to my people. So I became the person that was targeted. I became the person that the media called. I was the one who went in the *Times* saying I was a homosexual and they put my picture in there. So I became the person. Nothing is stopping any of them from doing that. I'm the one who became the homosexual in Watts, in Inglewood, downtown, at the mayor's office—the black one—me. My picture was the one all over the place. I was the one all over the television. I was the one advocating and ranting and raving. All of them had that opportunity; it had nothing to do with media. Do you know how I felt at first? What might happen? Some angry person who felt I was doing something against "black maleness or manhood" who might take my head off because I was saying I was black and homosexual? Do you know how many nights I had to deal with that? Not knowing what was going to happen when I knocked on the door wherever I was going.

They're welcome. They're welcome. Come on. By far there ain't enough. They can come and join me.

*I understand that you returned \$70,000 in grant money to the state instead of sending it where it should have gone, the Watts Health Foundation. True?*

We had a subcontract with the Watts Health Foundation that was supposed to have been carried out in a specific way. There was a person here at the time who was dealing with a substance abuse problem who had written that proposal. That proposal was never carried out. Now I *know* how they watch people like us, of color. They want to find one penny spent improperly so they can close our programs down and make headlines. My board makes decisions, not Rev. Bean. It doesn't stop with Rev. Bean. It goes to the Minority AIDS Project board.

We had a meeting in my office about that money. It was very close to the time for that contract to be completed. It was said in the meeting that it was impossible to complete that program in the time allotted. There were five people in my office, and the executive director of the Watts Foundation and all of us agreed it was an impossible project. I called the state to tell them it was impossible. Then a letter was written to the state saying that someone's salary at Watts had been charged against that money, and that the money was needed to put the salary back. Now that was not what was said in my office. So I knew then that the best way for me to protect MAP was to give the money to those two parties and let them make the decisions. My board agreed and said send the money back. Don't touch it.

*There seems to be a lot of turnover at MAP, and a lot of apparently highly qualified people have left such as Dr. Germán Maisonet. Why is that?*

What I've learned in doing this kind of work is that whatever people come and offer, I have to accept whatever



that is and accept however they do it. However, I cannot allow it to be something that will hurt what I'm trying to do or what the board is trying to do or the work of this ministry. If someone says to me I'm going to start an AA group and it becomes a source of healing for the community I serve, and I start hearing from the people that the person didn't show up or they aren't getting feedback, then I must try to find someone who will come and will be consistent and then I must try to find money so it will be an ongoing thing. People who have been damaged a lot, it certainly does not help them to be put on a yo-yo.

*Any ulterior motives of your own?*

No! To do what? To stay in the same apartment for 12 years? I'm still in it.

*Perhaps to become mayor.*

Mayor? Mayor of the city? [laughs] I wouldn't trade places with Tom Bradley for no salary in the world. You know, to sit in an office everyday of my life—no, that's not me.

*Some blacks are concerned about the involvement of Black and White Men Together in their affairs. Aren't a lot of MAP's volunteers members of BWMT?*

There's no way I can teach love thy neighbor as thyself and practice what has hurt me and my people. There's no way I can become a person who does to others, because of a difference, what's been done to us and say I want the world to be a better place. I'm in total agreement with Dr. King there. Those people who opposed him because he wanted to bring people together. Same with Gandhi and Jesus Christ himself. Anyone who teaches love for everybody, that teaches that we all must be one and interconnected, the world begins to fight [him]. When you speak of unconditional love, it's too much for a lot of people.

How can I dislike you for your choice of organization? BWMT comes to me and says we want to raise money to help keep the doors of MAP open. And I'm supposed to say, because you're in a club that's black and white men mixed you can't bring me money to help these black folk over here with AIDS?

There's no black organization bringing us canned goods. That's what amazes me; they [not BWMT] weren't even organized, they weren't bringing anything. Where were they? Until they saw my picture in the paper they weren't doing anything anywhere.

We started the church, then I started MAP as its founder, and there was a black gay presence in the community that became public. All of these people came to me to get to know us. My people who started the church and MAP are still here. Isn't that funny? The founders of Unity Fellowship Church are all still here. They're all black lesbian and gay. The founders of Minority AIDS Project are all still here. They're all black lesbian and gay. Those who came through for a different reason—many are gone.

*Are you a member of BWMT?*

No. But I'd have no problem being one.

*You participated in the recent black gay and lesbian national conference held here in L.A. How do you respond to accusations by some that the conference was not, in fact, organized and promoted in the best interests of the black community?*

The conference planning committee met here for almost the whole year leading up to the conference. Church members and MAP members helped with the conference. They were organizers, ushers, guards, etc. No, it wasn't perfect, but you create better by sitting down, finding out what the problems are, listening to each other, and coming up with something better. If someone steps out on the line it's easy to take shots at him. In the 60s we would meet in a room,

get it together, and come out a force of one. Now it's divide and conquer and usually it doesn't take anyone else to divide us—we do it ourselves. Again, it's envy, jealousy. It doesn't have to be. Ain't none of us got nothin' yet. Why would you fight a program in your community with a few hundred thousand dollars instead of a program across town with 10 or 11 million?

*How much input did blacks have in the planning of the conference?*

Phill Wilson is black. He is not white.

*Now isn't he a West Hollywood boy, so to speak? We don't see or hear of him coming to black gay bars or working within the community.*

Blacks packed his conference.

*Even blacks from L.A., where the conference was supposedly downplayed?*

They packed the room. Even the dissenters were there. People need to wake up.

*Tell me about Dignity House.*

You know how that came about? One Sunday after I had finished preaching I went down to County to see a man at the request of a social worker. I was about to leave after trying to show him we loved him and there was a place. He said, "Rev. Bean, I have Pneumocystis pneumonia. They tell me Wednesday I'm leaving the hospital. Where do I go? Now you told me 'bout God, you told me 'bout love, and I'm glad you came. But Wednesday, they say I can leave. Where am I going? For two years I been livin' on the streets and in the missions. I used to be able to fight to be one of those to make it in before the cutoff came or before the soup ran out. I've had to sleep on thin pieces of cardboard between me and the concrete and cover up with newspaper. Now I don't have an immune system. Where will I go? I can't sleep on cardboard no more. I'm cold now while we talking."

I couldn't sleep for three days. I came to the office and I sat and prayed and prayed and thought and thought, trying to do the business of the day, but his face wouldn't leave me. I wrote "Dignity House" on a little sticker like this and stuck it to the wall. I discussed it with everybody that came into the office. I would say that we need a place that will give our black brothers and sisters that are gay, homeless, and with AIDS, a sense of dignity and pride even in their sickness. I shared it with the congregation and prayed and prayed until Dignity House became a reality.

We've been running Dignity House for three years now for homeless people with AIDS. The benefit that Dionne Warwick helped us with last year was to help us continue to be able to do this kind of work.

*What does Dignity House consist of?*

It's a nice house in the inner city with three bedrooms, living and dining rooms and kitchen, big backyard, laundry, pretty much everything.

*The neighborhood doesn't mind?*

Nothing was formally announced, but I'm sure they know from seeing me go in and out. And another thing, the media have wanted to cover Dignity House forever, but we've refused because if something goes wrong we'd have six or eight AIDS patients who are living well and feeling some dignity that would be on the streets. They wouldn't care because they'd be back on the news tomorrow, but the AIDS patients would be on the streets.

*Are you planning another gospel concert to help raise funds like the one last year?*

Yes, and Dionne Warwick will headline again. It will be called Coming Home for Friends II.



### *How much did you raise last year?*

We cleared close to \$100,000. We were two hours over last year. I had to give the Shrine \$12,000 of what we made for overtime. We could have made much more. In fact, some of the entertainers said I should have charged more, but we wanted to keep the concert accessible to as many as possible. Our tickets were \$25, then \$15, then \$10—that was the bulk of the house. Had the entertainers not come to our rescue, I don't think we'd be here now. When we started we sometimes gave out \$500 in a month, and had no idea how we could sustain that. Now, there are months when we give out \$8,000. And none of that comes from the government. That's all donations, unrestricted funds from the general populace.

### *It must have been quite an organizational and networking feat to stage a major show like that at the Shrine.*

The thing that equipped me was the fact that I had been in gospel music all my life, had been traveling and singing and performing, had done Broadway shows, was used to press conferences, had been in the ministry and had a love for my people since the early marches on Washington.

What also helped was when Motown Records came to me in 1977 to record a song called "I Was Born This Way." The lyrics were "I'm happy, I'm carefree, I'm gay and I was born this way." The record was released on the Motown label on a 12-inch disk and it went to number 14 on *Billboard's* disco charts. They called in the best to do it: the Sweet Inspirations did the background and they called upon Norman Harris and MFSB in Philadelphia to do the track. I did a lot of interviewing; talk about being pushed out of the closet—that record did it for me. But when it came to me I didn't know what it was. I was working in the lamp department at May Company on Wilshire when

Motown called. I hung up on them four times, thinking it was some idiot playing a trick. They said they'd send someone over with the lyric to prove it was them, and they did. They had heard my voice on a gospel album I had done on ABC Records called "Carl Bean and Universal Love." I realized that the record was something bigger than me, that something was going to happen or needed to happen and I would be the voice that would make it happen.

### *Why no follow-up records?*

I was an outwardly gay artist, and none of us knew what to do with me next. After that record they said they really liked my voice and had some stuff in the can on David Ruffin they wanted me to cut. I said to myself I have just talked to the world press, and now you want me to sing "I Love You So." I said no, give me my release. It wasn't Motown's fault. The time was such that they didn't really know what to do after the record hit. What would you follow it with? Was the world ready for lyrics like "John and I love each other?" No one knew what to do. How do you build an openly gay recording artist's career?

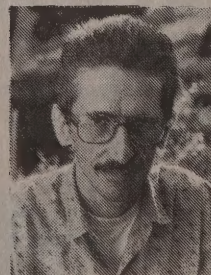
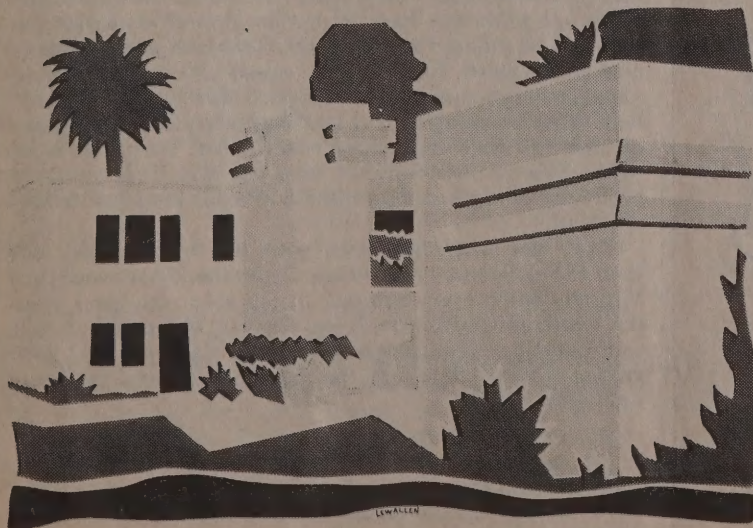
### *Did you get the release?*

Yes.

### *Didn't Motown have another openly gay artist? Valentino, I believe?*

Yes. Valentino had done the same song before I did it, but he did it real Broadwayish. It didn't go. I did the Backlot. It was raining cats and dogs but they packed it. The show was so successful they asked us back the next night. At the time I was offered the part of the Lion in the *Wiz* if I would return to New York, and I was also asked to do the lead in *Your Arms Too Short to Box With God*. I said no. I'm out here now and I've got to see what life holds in store

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for me.

*Any regrets in turning down what might have been a lucrative career in pop music?*

None at all. To my critics who think that's what I want, I say, "Honey, I had that all in my hand. I walked away from it. People were dying." That's my talent naturally, and I was already on Broadway, I wasn't trying out for parts. I was being offered parts across country. All I had to do was fly over there and go up on stage and do it.

Carl Bean has always been Rev. Carl Bean. I don't have any problems. I will sing and tell my story. People are talking to me now about writing a book on what it's like to be black and gay. So now as I travel I record notes into a pocket tape recorder. I think I might like to do a one-man show about my life and being black and gay.

*How does your childhood and upbringing come to bear on your sexuality and life in the ministry?*

My home is Baltimore, Maryland. I was born in the 40s, raised in a time and place where the black community was very separate from the rest of society. The word "ghetto" could be said of it, but "slums" could not. There were poor people on the block, but in those days it never occurred to any of us to think that our house looked good but yours was falling apart. There was a feeling of family that was natural and that you were taught to be a part of. I can remember the black teacher on the block, the black postman, and the black garbage collector. But there was no further division along those lines. Everyone went to church together, and everyone ran up a bill, as it were, at the corner grocery store. Everyone was "Mr. Johnson" or "Miss Smith," "Yes, ma'am," "No, sir." And now that I look back on that kind of respect, I'm sure it all provided the foundation for what my life is today.

My grandmother always gave me a sense of pride and prepared me for the things I would see in the world. I remember the first time I was sent to Virginia, which is where the family is from, and she explained to me why after a certain point I would have to change seats and ride in the back of the bus.

*So homosexuality was accepted back then?*

It was a part of the community. Of course, at that time I didn't know "gay" or anything, but I knew you could be

that way in the community. So I came up with the sense that it was a part of us—it wasn't separate. That was in me. There were women who were real masculine, and everybody knew who they were, their names, and their mommies and daddies. So that base was there for me.

*Along with your perception of gay life, your perception of race must play an important role in the work you are doing now. What were race relations like while you were growing up?*

I remember my mother working for people in the white community. Every evening my Dad and I would pick her up. I would have to go into the house to get Mom while Dad waited in the car. I would go in the house and down the steps to their basement, and I would see all these shirts and sheets that Mom had starched and ironed and folded up. I remember her smiling, as tired as she must have been. The lady's name was Miss Carol. She would respect me as a child; her kids would call me Carl and I would call them by their names. But it was clear that Dad didn't come in that house. Mom would come out of the house with me and ride home with us. I guess that was the beginning of my recognizing that difference; that there was this difference and that there were certain rules you played by. I always remember my Dad's face. He would joke until we got there, but then become very solemn. If they said something to him he would speak back, if they said nothing, he'd say nothing. I was the one with *carte blanche* to go in and pick up Mom, not knowing really then what was going on—why I could come in and Dad couldn't.

In the early 50s, we were the first students used to integrate the schools there. We were told ahead of time that we had something to do for our people, that we had to get on busses and go to another school, that we were going to be called names, that people would spit on us and throw things at us, but that we had to maintain a certain conduct to get this job done. I remember the time they took to explain how important it was to get that job done, and what it would do for us as a people, how it would change things for us. This was our first experience with white culture. We were in the seventh grade then. We were hesitant and uncertain, and none of us were really fighters. On the first day, some outsiders came up to the school on motorcycles while we were on the playground at lunchtime. They had snow chains, and they began whipping us with them. We started running toward home and, fortunately, a white man who owned a car dealership instantly perceived what was happening. He allowed us in his garage and he pulled the door down. To this day I don't know how it happened, but when he raised the door a few minutes later, we saw hordes of black kids from several area high schools coming to save us. They were chanting. I have no idea how they knew there was trouble. They beat those white kids unmercifully! It was terrible. That was the beginning of a greater awareness of what black/white was all about.

That was what happened with me in childhood, but then the *difference* cropped up. I was the kid who went to Virginia Union every summer to represent the black Baptist church of Baltimore; I was the kid who could answer your questions about the Bible; I could also sing, I got good grades in school, but then the *difference*. I found out I was different.

*The difference is that you were gay?*

Yes. Actually, I suppose I knew even in kindergarten. I was attracted to men then, and I knew it. I somehow knew not to talk to anyone about it. But I knew it was there. I remember every crush on every boy from first grade through high school. I can remember every neighborhood boy I had a crush on, someone's Dad, my earliest sexual



AJB

"Henry! It's time to get the new mail boy off your mind and get back to work."



experiences. I never, ever was attracted to females, I've never slept with one, I've never masqueraded, never took a girl to a dance, or any of that—ever. It wasn't bravery or anything like that; I was just being who I was. I just didn't know how to be anyone else.

I remember my first formal acquaintance with homosexuality. I got a book from the library once about beatniks in Greenwich Village. The book had a section about homosexuals. One page showed a couple together, and I *knew* it was me. I would take my dictionary and look up "homosexual." Here I was in my bed, head under the cover, looking up these words! That was validating me! I would look up a word, look back at the book, look at a picture, and back and forth. I did that almost daily for months!

*Did you mess around in those years?*

Oh, yes. I became sexual at probably age 8. I was in puppy love with several kids at school.

*And there were kids that would reciprocate?*

Oh, definitely. When we would do lights out for a movie, I remember the boys just running to sit next to me! We would combine two classes for the movies, which meant we had to sit two at a desk. When they put those lights out the boys would come running. And I'm not going to tell the rest—it shouldn't be in print [laughs].

*And I won't ask.*

But I remember that closeness and that touching. We were so young, too, and didn't know what was really happening. The guys knew I was different and that they could be sexual with me. Whatever it was they were feeling, whether it was with a girl or with me, they just wanted to feel it. That's all that really was. I think some of them felt emotional feelings for me because I was different. Some of them would wind up at my house, always wanting to be with me or around me. I remember falling in love with certain boys just like the girls did. I can still name them. At that age they want to be with you, too, and don't want other boys around you when they come over.

*What was it like when your Mom found out?*

I think she probably always knew. I think everyone always knew. The problem was how to cope with it. At one point it became miserable in my home, and I became belligerent. My family got into that "changing" me stuff. I was very close to my friends, and we were all gay. We went to school together, we walked together. I remember these capes that were out at the time. We all bought capes and tams and wore them together. We used to carry our books like the girls did. We were trying to act out this difference. But we really didn't know what to do. We learned "Miss Thing," and "girl," and snapped fingers. It was "Miss this," and "Miss that," and "girlfriend," and "sister." That was a real part of our lives. There were drag queens with us sometimes. One group of guys were cousins, and all three of them at ages 12 and 13 were already fully wearing women's clothing. They were already tricking in the red light district. We knew we could make money down there from these men that had offices and suites.

*Let's move on to the beginnings of your gospel singing career and your arrival in L.A.*

I left home at the ripe age of 16. My interest in gospel singing took me to New York. I remember meeting everyone in the church circuit and being a part of Harlem in the 60s. I did the Apollo Theater, Georgetown, Broadway, and much later, a gay liberation record for Motown.

After a few years in New York, I moved to Chicago, following my gospel dreams to the hub of black culture. I had to know that I could do it in Chicago. I longed to be with Thomas Dorsey, Sally Martin, Mahalia Jackson, Roberta Martin Singers, and the many others that were there. I

joined the Gospel Chimes and the Gospel Wonders. With the Wonders we did a song called "Long As I Got Jesus," which was a big hit. We were all very young. I joined the Bradford Singers, did a show with them called *Black Nativity* written by Langston Hughes; Vonette Carroll was the announcer. That took my life into something else.

I came to L.A. in 1972 after leaving *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope* on Broadway.

*And since coming here, would you say that your life has changed in a major way?*

Definitely. I had a calling, I guess, first to start a gay-oriented church and then to help with AIDS.

*If you had a blank check, what would most like to do?*

A few things. First, I would develop rehab in a big way. So many blacks, Latinos, lesbians, gays, and straight people have opted to cook their brains on drugs and give up the fight. The last administration killed basically every rehab program in the country, and then turned around and said "just say no." You can't just say "no." There has to be a program to help you get free of the addiction and then help you become a productive citizen again. I'd also set up an Institute of Love—a place where people can come and deal with all kinds of problems, including substance abuse, child abuse, lesbian and gay issues, teenage pregnancy, battered women, etc. It would be a place where they can come at no cost to free themselves of their problems. There would be day care for AIDS patients.

*Looking at all your accomplishments, of which are you the most proud?*

Learning to love.

*But you've always known how to do that, haven't you?*

It's an ongoing process. We make so many mistakes in learning to love. We say things we shouldn't say. We break a heart. We bring a tear. We realize a minute later we could have said it better. We could have done it nicer. It's an ongoing process. I think we're all working to become the true embodiment of love—that our essence will become love. I think that's what Martin was working for, what Gandhi was working for, what Mother Theresa is working for, what the many whose names we don't know are working for. It's certainly what I'm working for.



*"There goes the neighborhood."*



# BLK COMMUNITY NEWS



Jack Wheaten in front of his van.

## Wheaten Killed; Man Sought for Questioning

By Jarvis D. Moore  
BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—Jack Wheaten, 37, was found dead June 6 in his apartment near Fairfax and Pico Boulevards. He had been killed sometime over the weekend of June 2-4, and there were no signs of forced entry. Although Wheaten's van is missing, the motive for his killing has not been established.

Wheaten was last seen in the company of a transient who uses the name Greg Bufano, but whose true identity and whereabouts are unknown. Bufano is described as a male, white, 5'11", 185 pounds, blond hair, hazel eyes, 28 years old, and is being sought for questioning by Los Angeles Police.

The missing vehicle is a 1988 Mitsubishi minivan bearing California license 3L62044 and is cream in color. It is presumed stolen by the perpetrator.

Wheaten, who was black and gay, lived alone. He was socially active and well-known in the Los Angeles black gay community.

When Wheaten, who was known to be a responsible employee, had not called or reported for work at Tele-flora by

Tuesday, June 6, his fellow employees became concerned. One co-worker went to Wheaten's apartment, became suspicious, alerted the landlady, and with the help of a locksmith, gained entry to the apartment. He found Wheaten dead, nude, and amidst signs of a violent struggle. The co-worker called police.

Los Angeles Police Detective Roger Gilbert, one of the detectives handling the investigation, believes that this crime is definitely a homicide. "Multiple stab wounds were the cause of death, but I do not want to give out more details. We are still pursuing active leads," said Det. Gilbert. "There are some details about this violent crime that only the victim and perpetrator or perpetrators would know."

At the Westwood-based Tele-flora, Wheaten's co-workers were devastated by his murder. Although no one there would discuss Wheaten or the case with BLK, Det. Gilbert said that "Wheaten's co-workers were deeply touched and needed psychological counseling."

Wheaten was active in the Black Gay Men's Support Group, a bi-weekly rap meeting of eight to ten who meet at the Unity Fellowship Church on Jefferson Blvd.

"Most members of the group have taken this pretty hard,"



said Paul Davis, the group's leader. "We had just gotten to the point where barriers to trust were breaking down, and people were beginning to really talk and share things," lamented Davis.

Although Wheaten had been a charter member and active participant since the beginning of the group in October 1988, Davis noted that "Very few people knew everything about Jack, and all the pieces have come out after his death. He'd never lie to you, but he just would not tell you everything.... There were some tensions in his life because he lived in two worlds."

Like many gay men and lesbians, Wheaten wished to keep many aspects of his personal life discreet. In fact, practically all of Wheaten's straight friends, co-workers, and family did not know he was gay until his murder. Some found out through a report on KABC's evening news for June 6. According to one viewer of the broadcast, "a reporter alleged that Wheaten was a 'known homosexual' to his neighbors, and that they had seen men come to his apartment. His house and van were flashed onto the screen."

But if television reportage lacked grace, everyone contacted by BLK has remarked how conscientious, courteous and cooperative the investigating detectives have been. Apparently Wheaten's sexual orientation has not affected the priority level of the case.

Det. Gilbert dismissed the possibility of a serial killer, or a pattern to this type of death. "Only a small percentage of homicides are of this type," he said. But Gilbert went on to add that "evidence at the scene indicated that the murder was definitely related to his homosexual activities."

Gilbert said he has encountered no more obstacles in investigating this case than he usually encounters on any other unsolved murder case.

However, one of Wheaten's friends, who asked to remain anonymous, while agreeing that the police were courteous, went on to say that they "had to be educated about the black gay lifestyle." He revealed that the police did not immediately know that Wheaten was gay, but only learned it through interviews with Wheaten's friends. One detective expressed surprise in learning that Will Rogers Park in Watts, an area in which he had worked, was a black gay cruising area. Wheaten is said to have frequented the park.

One hypothesis suggested by some of Wheaten's acquaintances is that Wheaten was killed by "rough trade" he had picked up for a sexual encounter. In a telephone conversation with a close friend late Friday evening, Wheaten indicated that he might go out.

"He did cruise bookstores and parks, but Jack never discussed that in the rap sessions," said Paul Davis. Another friend concurred: "He did have a habit of picking up people, but he did it infrequently. He knew it was dangerous and he was very careful. Generally, he was not comfortable about discussing sex, so we seldom talked about this."

Wheaten, who was an only child, was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on August 18, 1951. He came to Los Angeles as a teenager and graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1970. Wheaten attended Los Angeles Valley College, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts from Loyola-Marymount University.

Although Wheaten was buried in Louisiana, a memorial service was held at Angelus Funeral Home June 16 in Los Angeles. Attending the service were numerous family members and friends from the several segments of Wheaten's life.

Family members and Wheaten's non-gay friends were either unavailable for comment or refused to be interviewed.

The police are continuing to circulate flyers throughout the gay community in search of leads, particularly the whereabouts of Greg Bufano or Wheaten's van. Persons with information should contact Detectives Roger Gilbert, Ray Futami or Dan Andrews at 213-485-4033.



Greg Bufano

## Merton Provides Funds, BWMT Joins LIFE Lobby

LOS ANGELES—As the result of a \$1,000 donation by *Advocate* publisher Niles Merton, the Los Angeles chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT/LA) has received a one-year membership in LIFE, California's lesbian and gay lobbying coalition.

LIFE, which stands for Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality, promotes gay, lesbian and AIDS issues. Affiliating organizations and individuals must pay a \$1,000 yearly membership fee to obtain board representation. The coalition retains a lobbyist in Sacramento, Rand Martin, who lobbies officeholders under the direction of LIFE's board of directors. In so doing, LIFE plays a major role in setting the political agenda of California's lesbian/gay community.

"The only people who have access to [AIDS] healthcare now are white, gay men. That's got to change," said Merton, explaining why he agreed to sponsor BWMT/LA's membership. "I'm familiar with BWMT and those involved. I know they're capable of making their voice heard."

When Merton suggested that BWMT/LA should be represented on the lobby, LIFE co-chairman John Doran asked if he would underwrite the group's membership. He immediately agreed. Merton became familiar with BWMT/LA through former L.A. City Councilwoman Pat Russell, who had close ties to the group. Russell's son, David, is Merton's lover, and has also been financially generous to BWMT/LA in the past.

Guy Hubbard, BWMT/LA co-chair, has been selected as representative to the bi-partisan organization. John Williams, chair of BWMT/LA's consciousness raising committee, will serve as alternate.



## Women, Minorities Tally Rage Door Policy Bias

By Mark Haile  
BLK Staff Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD—Representatives of several Southern California lesbian and gay people of color organizations have formed a group effort to monitor and stop the alleged discriminatory practices of selectively demanding a \$5 cover charge or selectively demanding identification of minorities and women at Rage, a popular West Hollywood disco.

Members of Asian and Pacific Lesbians and Gays, Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, the Black lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and the Gay Asian Rap investigated and documented charges that women, blacks, Latinos and Asians, were being subjected to illegal door practices at Rage.

Participants in BWMT's Anti-Discrimination Unit logged patrons as they stood in line outside the door waiting to pay the cashier.

In one sample hour-long period, 18 black men, six Latino men, one Asian man, and four white men who entered Rage in the company of black friends were each charged the \$5 admission fee, while 47 white men were admitted for free during the same period. Perspective patrons had no way of knowing while in line that the cover charge was not being uniformly applied.

At about 7:30 p.m. the cover charge was requested of everyone in line, when, apparently, Rage management judged the club to be sufficiently crowded.

In another hour-long sample, observers in BWMT's Anti-Discrimination Unit watched as all 11 women who attempted to enter Rage were asked for identification, while only two men, one of whom was black, were carded.

On one Sunday evening, observers saw Rage employees systematically go through the bar, carding only the black men present in the club.

Exit interviews with patrons of color confirm that these abuses have been ongoing in an irregular fashion.

Phill Wilson, BLGLF chair, stated "We will put them [Rage management] on notice, and we will take action if we discover that these abuses continue."

A meeting is scheduled to take place with both members of the community and Rage management in attendance. But comments from Rage management were not available at press time other than a denial by a Rage employee who refused to give his full name.

Members of BWMT Anti-Discrimination Units in New York City and Washington, D.C. and the New York-based group, Girth and Mirth, have won several court cases over discriminatory practices in gay bars. Outcomes have included cash settlements in excess of \$45,000, and in one instance, the revocation of a bar's liquor license.

Lesbians and gay men of color who experience illegal discrimination in gay businesses are encouraged to call the BWMT response line at 213-664-4716.

## Launch Tanzania Drive

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP)—Tanzania, which has 4,000 confirmed cases of AIDS, plans to launch a campaign against the disease. Speaking recently at the opening of an exhibit sponsored by artists campaigning against the disease, Health Minister Aaron Chiudo said an estimated 400,000 Tanzanians are infected with the AIDS virus.

## Name Room for Black Gay AIDS Activist in N.Y.

NEW YORK—Friends and loved ones of Charles Angel came together at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center recently to dedicate a room in his memory. The room had been renovated by a consortium of four groups, as part of the Center's "adopt a room" program.

Located in the west wing, the room will now be known as The Charles Angel: People of Color Room. Its transformation into an attractive meeting space was undertaken by four groups: Salsa Soul Sisters, Gay Men of African Descent, Committee of Outraged Lesbians, and Men of All Colors Together/NY. Members of these groups put in many hours over the past several months to ready it for the dedication.

On the evening of the dedication ceremony, the Center's executive secretary and several boardmembers joined the late Charles Angel's mother and friends to celebrate his life.

Angel was born in 1952 and grew up in Brooklyn. He attended Columbia University and became an ordained minister in his early twenties. He was active in several gay and PWA groups including the Committee of Black Gay Men and the People With AIDS Coalition. He was a founding member of both Gay Men of African Descent and ACT-UP/New York. Angel appeared on radio and television speaking out about his life with AIDS, being one of the first African Americans to engage in public activism as a PWA.

## BLK Plans New Titles for Fall; Seeks Manuscripts

LOS ANGELES—The BLK Publishing Company announced plans to issue three new black gay quarterly publications, each separate from one another, and each with a very specific focus. Scheduled to begin later this year are *Kuumba*, a journal of non-erotic poetry for black lesbians and gay men; *Blackfire*, a black gay male erotic magazine; and *Black Lace*, a black lesbian erotic magazine.

*Kuumba* is a Swahili word meaning "creativity" and is one of the Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles) which govern African communities. Editor of the poetry journal will be Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, poet, playwright, journalist and short fiction writer from Los Angeles.

The new journal welcomes submissions of poetry on all subjects reflecting the experience of black gay men and lesbians.

Submissions for the inaugural edition of *Kuumba* to be issued in November 1989 should be sent to Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, Editor, *Kuumba*, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, and should include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Deadline for the November issue is August 15, 1989.

*Blackfire* is described by editor Revon Kyle Banneker as a "funky, trashy, disgusting new publication of black literature and art" that is "primarily interested in publishing seedy short stories mainly about the sexual adventures of horny black men."

*Black Lace*, which is still in development, will be edited by Alycee J. Lane. The women's publication will feature articles, fiction, erotic poetry, as well as drawings and photographs.

Submissions to *Blackfire* or *Black Lace* should be addressed to their respective editors at Box, 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. The company can be reached by telephone at 213-410-0808 or by fax at 213-410-9250.



# Long Beach AIDS Group Quizzes Board Member

By Cornell Makonnen  
BLK Contributor

LONG BEACH, Calif.—Ron Wolff, an Anglo AIDS activist who was ousted from the directorship of a Long Beach hospice program in January, has also left the board of directors of the predominantly black Minority AIDS Council (MAC) under pressure.

Wolff, who until January 19 was executive director of troubled Hospice/Los Angeles-Long Beach (HLL), was asked to resign by several of those present at a May 9 MAC meeting. Although at first he resisted, arguing that MAC needed his expertise to function, he agreed to leave when it became clear he lacked support among boardmembers.

Wolff had begun actively attending MAC's meetings as a boardmember at about the same time he was expelled from HLL by its board of directors last December. Thereafter, Ken Valdez and Al Espinoza, supporters of Wolff also previously affiliated with HLL, joined MAC's board. Wolff, backed by Valdez and Espinoza, immediately began playing an aggressive role in MAC meetings and plans.

MAC, formerly the Neighborhood Council on AIDS, grew out of a 1986 AIDS forum which emphasized the need for an AIDS-focused community based organization to address the needs of Long Beach's minorities. Its current board, not counting Wolff, Valdez and Espinoza, includes two Latinos, one Asian, two Anglos and 12 blacks.

Melvina Luke, an NAACP/Long Beach vice president, is MAC's board president and (unpaid) executive director. MAC provides education, referral and volunteer services. Its board has been working with Michael Pondorf and Nan Waltman of Los Angeles County Supervisor Deane Dana's office to obtain County funding for expanded services.

Johann Vessup, former MAC secretary, resigned from the board after Wolff and Luke successfully opposed his recommendation that the board consider affiliating with L.A.'s Minority AIDS Project (MAP). Wolff reminded boardmembers that Bean was involved in litigation with L.A. County, which could jeopardize MAC's hopes for county funding.

According to Vessup, Wolff argued that, "We should not associate ourselves with MAP because [executive director] Carl Bean's too controversial. I said to myself, 'this joker's going to call Rev. Bean controversial?'"

Bean was then a co-plaintiff, with NAACP/LA, in a class action suit to force county health officials to release AIDS-designated federal funds. Bean says that he himself had previously warned MAC of this possibility, "I told them about our lawsuit and that changing their name [to MAC] would cause others to misconstrue them as a MAP satellite."

Vessup says it was more than that. "Despite all of Carl [Bean]'s help, they said, 'That's a gay-run operation, and we're not.'" Luke denies any homophobia. "We're all people," says the devoutly Christian matron, "If the board wants to do that, that would be fine." She hopes to get Vessup to rejoin, acknowledging that since he left, MAC has no open gays. She says she meant to postpone, not veto Vessup's proposal.

Luke had invited Wolff to join MAC after being advised to integrate the board. She became suspicious of his involvement after receiving mail which documented his problems with HLL, of which she had been previously unaware, despite gay press coverage. Moreover, without board authorization, on March 9 Wolff had filed incorporation papers on behalf of MAC, falsely designating himself as the organization's vice president.

Wolff has been accused of numerous improprieties in his management of HLL's AIDS hospice in Long Beach, including abuse of AIDS patients under his care. On February 6, a permanent restraining order was issued banning Wolff from

HLL and ordering him to turn over the agency's bookkeeping records. Discrepancies in Wolff's personal and professional background have also since come to light.

Wolff was asked to come and explain his past relationship with HLL and anticipated relationship with MAC at the April 11 board meeting. "He wasn't altogether truthful with us," said Doris Topsy-Elvord, an MAC boardmember and Long Beach city commissioner, "It appears that as we got closer to getting funded, Ron Wolff wanted to become more prominently involved."

But the meeting was cancelled on the grounds of lack of a quorum when reporters from *The News* and *Frontiers* arrived and refused to leave the meeting. In fact, however, BLK has learned that during the executive session held prior to adjournment of that meeting, Wolff challenged Luke's parliamentary competence, then moved that the board appoint him assistant executive director. Luke refused to entertain the motion.

Again, at the May 9 meeting, there was no quorum. Espinoza had resigned, and it was discovered that Valdez had been elected to the board at a meeting where no quorum was present. Carol Anderson, a lesbian attorney who had been involved in the HLL dispute, was present, invited by Luke. Although Wolff objected, she was allowed to speak. She urged him to resign and start a new AIDS organization if he wished. One by one boardmembers pleaded for or demanded Wolff's resignation. He defended his actions on the grounds that in two years of existence MAC had only raised \$2,000 and needed to incorporate. He reminded Luke that she had recently been urged by Supervisor Dana's office to accept Wolff's expertise.

At that point Angus Love, publisher of the *Long Beach Times*, a black periodical, barged in, having been sitting outside for much of the meeting. He objected to the tone of Wolff's remarks to the softspoken Luke, and also demanded Wolff's resignation. Whereupon Wolff declared that he would resign in writing the next day. Although to date no resignation has been forthcoming, MAC boardmembers hope that the matter of the white activist who wanted to run a black AIDS agency is at an end.

## Racists Go on Trial for Slaying Black Gay Men

Two white supremacists are on trial for the execution-style murders of three men in 1987 at a North Carolina gay bookstore.

Robert Jackson and Douglas Sheets, former members of the White Patriot Party, were accused of entering the Shelby III Adult Bookstore, wearing masks, around midnight, January 17, 1987, and shooting the five men present in the head. Three died, two survived with severe injuries. The two alleged assailants were apprehended in Missouri in April of that year, and convicted of federal arms violations.

Their leader, Glenn Miller, had called for a "race war," prior to being arrested with Jackson and Sheets. He is now expected to testify against them in return for partial or complete immunity. One or two other men were involved in the multiple murders, but only Jackson and Sheets have been charged thus far.

Ku Klux Klan and Nazi leaders have announced plans to attend the trial and stage protest demonstrations. Most white supremacist groups are also anti-gay. Supposedly the murdered men, in their late teens and twenties, were killed to "avenge Yahweh [Jehovah] on homosexuals."



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We are students, professionals, just folks, sons, fathers, etc. Check it out.

The Black Gay Mens' Exchange will offer its initial evening of celebration and conversation beginning Friday, August 4, 1989, 9:00 p.m.

For information on the location call 213-753-2313.  
Ask for Alton. See ya soon my dear brothers.

## Thelma Frazier Will Leave State AIDS Post

LOS ANGELES—"I'm tired. I want out," were the words used by Thelma Frazier, director of the state Office of AIDS (OoA) in announcing that she has requested transfer out of her department at a packed meeting of the Black Los Angeles AIDS Commission, held April 26.

Citing ten hour days and constant pressure to do more than is possible with the limited resources available, Frazier stated that she hopes to have left her position by the end of the year. "Use me now, while I'm here," she offered.

Frazier has been heavily criticized by African American and other AIDS service providers for poor and arbitrary administration of the department which has responsibility for directing the state's efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic.

Yet she was calm and direct in responding to the many questions directed to her at the meeting, held at the Brotherhood Crusade in South Central Los Angeles.

She has been defended by black legislators and others who contend that, although a Republican, as an African American woman Frazier was assigned OoA by a conservative administration which neither wanted her to succeed nor cared if she failed.

She took full, personal responsibility for the inadvertent defunding in mid-March of most of the state's minority community based organizations (CBOs), previously contracted to provide culture-sensitive AIDS services [BLK, April 1989]. Several of those agencies were re-funded for the 1989/90 fiscal year after protests from black and Latino politicians.

Funding decisions were made by staff grant evaluators, some of whom are black, and verbal notification to the agencies was given without Frazier's review of the decisions, she said.

Most minority contractors were defunded and most black CBO applicants were rejected because, Frazier explained, OoA's evaluators found the agencies' past performance and/or written proposals to be sub-standard.

Frazier was able to restore funding to some past contractors on the grounds that they served target populations which were inadequately served by Anglo agencies. She now reviews each proposal personally, and urges CBOs to call her directly when something seems amiss.

"Minorities must learn to focus on 'numbers,' " she admonished, "and stop exaggerating what you can do. You cannot possibly service every person-at-risk for AIDS in South Central on a \$50,000 grant, so don't tell us you will."

Frazier is now reviewing several millions of dollars worth of appeals from her department's decisions, for most of which, she warned, there is no additional funding, regardless of the merit of their appeals.

Although it is her general policy to automatically re-fund new programs because, she said, "it takes a year to get going," second-year applicants must meet OoA standards of performance and grant proposals. In order to fund new projects, especially minority CBOs, old programs must receive cuts in their renewal grants, including established minority agencies and successful or necessary programs: no exceptions.

Frazier stressed that she works for Governor Deukmejian, is responsible to his Administration, and cannot be expected to be a public advocate for black agencies or issues.

"You have to be there arguing your case yourselves. I cannot ask a [legislative] committee to grant OoA more money if the Governor's budget calls for less," she repeated several times, "He signs my paycheck."



## Hospital Gives Minority Patients Useless Drug

BRONX, N.Y. (VV)—Despite doubts about the efficacy—and safety—of kua-lou, the unpurified, dried Chinese cucumber root that some are touting as an effective treatment for AIDS, Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx is giving the drug to patients with infected with HIV. Lincoln is a New York municipal hospital with a mostly minority clientele.

Sheila Mason, an acupuncturist in the hospital's addiction treatment center, reports that a few dozen patients enrolled there are getting one teaspoon of the dried, ground root, dissolved in a glass of water, twice a day.

Trichosanthin, the active ingredient of kua-lou, officially known as GLQ223 and colloquially known as Compound Q, almost certainly breaks down once the root has been dried, so the treatment is probably useless. Also, the unpurified root may contain lectin, a toxic coagulant that has been reported in Chinese medical literature to cause heart attacks and strokes.

When asked about the probable uselessness and possible dangers of the treatment, Mason replied: "We've been using other herbs for quite some time and haven't seen any problems. We've only just begun with the cucumber, so it is too early to say whether any benefits will be seen. The reports about toxicity have been blown out of proportion. I have taken some myself." There are many anecdotal accounts of kua-lou derivatives being used without danger, but experts caution that AIDS patients may have allergic reactions to drugs tolerated by others.

A spokeswoman for the hospital would offer no further comment except: "We cannot guarantee that the information Mason told you is accurate. Hospital employees are not authorized to speak to the press."

## L.A. Gay Film Festival Includes Black Works

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles International Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival will take place July 11-15 at the Directors Guild of America Theater. Among the works to be screened that have racial angles are *Night Visions*, *Out on Tuesday*, *Infidel*, *Something Fierce* and *Wonderland*. For more information, call 213-665-0622.

## Slate First 'Gold Coast' Model Contest at Catch

LOS ANGELES—The first annual Mr. Gold Coast Modeling Competition, in which contestants vie for prizes and cash ranging from \$250 to \$1000, will take place at the Catch One July 9. Musical entertainment will be provided by *Dream-girls* alumna Loretta Devine, Kenneth Jones, B.J. Crosby and Tony Warren.

The competition, which includes swimwear, sportswear and formal attire categories, will be judged by Stanley Bennett Clay, Sloan Robinson, Scherrie Payne, Harold Sylvester and Tina Moore.

"This is unlike anything that has been done before as far as I know," said producer and creator Mark Barthé. "Guests will be pleasantly surprised at the exceptional concept of our event. Our ultimate goal is to establish scholarships for those individuals who aspire to careers in the modeling industry."

## Project Slates 'Coming Home for Friends II'

LOS ANGELES—The Minority AIDS Project (MAP) has designated July 2-8, 1989 as "Coming Home for Friends Week" to "focus attention on the disproportionately high number of AIDS cases in the ethnic minority communities of Los Angeles." It will also serve as a fundraiser for MAP, which currently has a caseload that is 60 percent Hispanic and 40 percent black.

A number of activities, including a food drive, are scheduled. The week will kick-off July 2 with a birthday celebration for MAP's founder and executive director, Rev. Carl Bean. His 45th birthday will be honored with a reception, from 3-6 p.m., at the Catch One Disco. Tickets are \$10. Individual sponsorships \$45.

The week will culminate July 8 with "Coming Home for Friends II," a gospel concert at the Shine Auditorium. Like last year's sold-out event, this year's concert is being organized with the help of Dionne Warwick. Last year's show included Patti Labelle, Natalie Cole, Thelma Houston and a 200-member choir. A similar guest lineup is expected this year.

Teresa Garay, vice president of the MAP Board of Directors, is the campaign's chair.



South African Alfred Machela, an AIDS educator employed by the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Whittingham, chaired a panel entitled "Erotica, Safer Sex and Behavior Change" at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS held in Montreal June 4-7. Machela, who works exclusively in the nation's black townships, also presented a pre-conference report on AIDS among the black population.



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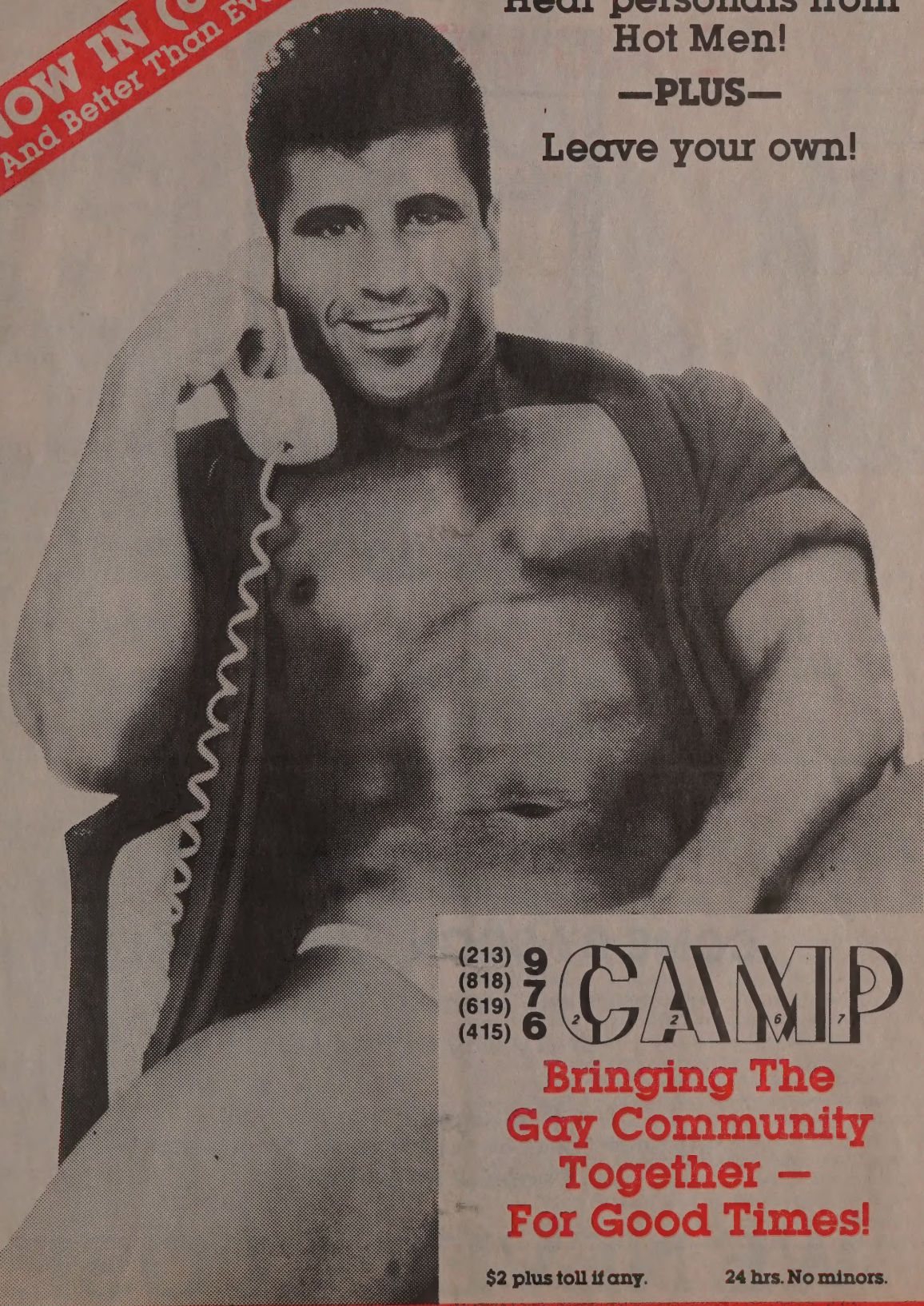


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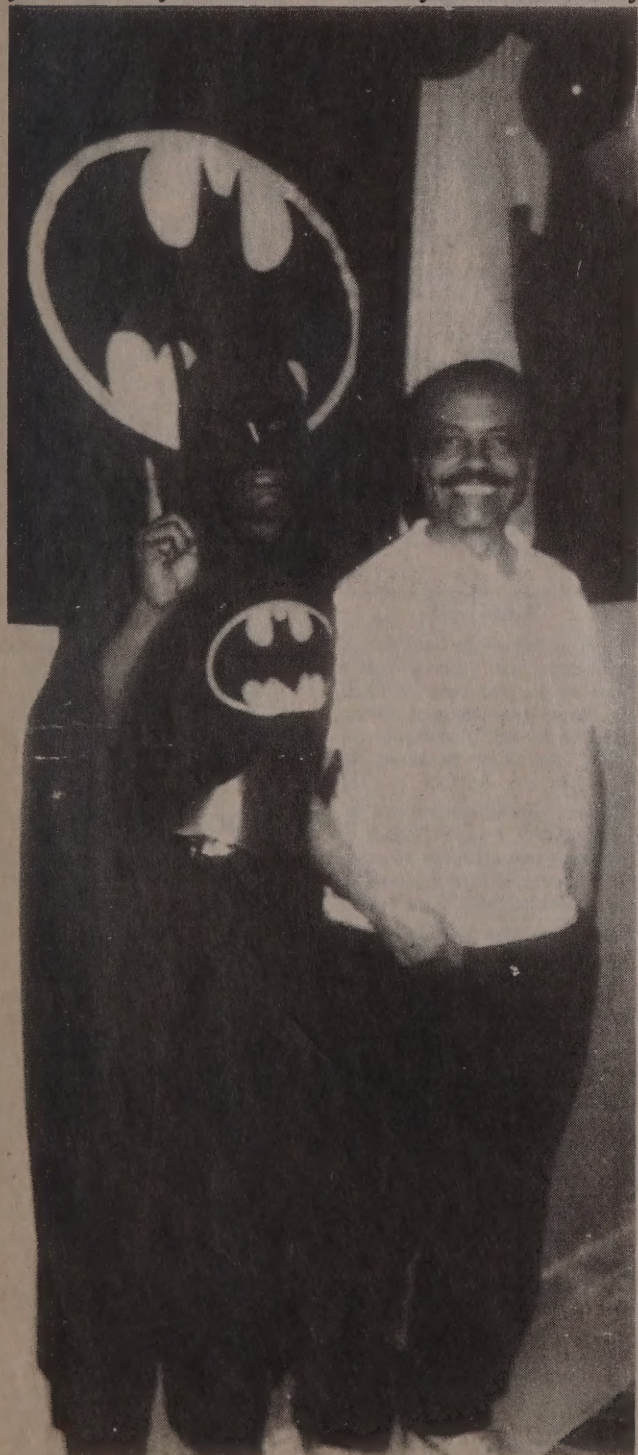
# **WE NEVER CLOSE**



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

ARSENIO HALL ON CELEBRATING GAY PRIDE MONTH IN JUNE: "I don't understand you homophobics. You've got your wife and your kids in the car and you run into the Gay



Horizon manager Bruce Johnson (left) with Horizon owner Louis Offlee.



Spike Lee

Pride Parade, and you start rolling up your windows. What do you think they're going to do?" Then Arsenio strutted up to the camera as if it were a car window, gave three of the queenliest *snaps* ever seen on TV, and said it loud, "Gay Pride, Gay Pride, Gay Pride! Thanks, Arsenio, America needed that...But according to *The Black American's* Michael St. John, Arsenio's best buddy, **Eddie Murphy**, has gotten over the need for his favorite sidekick, "At last, Murphy realizes that Hall was only using him to boost his own career...When Eddie Murphy suggested in very graphic terms that he should get 'real'—Hall, I'm told, was furious. From that moment on, the Murphy and Hall friendship began to thin out." 'Bout time too, 'cuz Arsenio's clearly comfortable with his manhood, while Murphy apparently needs to put others down—gays specifically—to convince himself that what he holds in his hand when he takes a piss is real...Holy **Horizon Club**, Batman! Is that club manager **Bruce Johnson** in bat cowl and cape, and owner **Louis Offlee** celebrating Hollywood's latest mad fad at their soon-to-be-expanded disco?...What is it we're doing wrong—or maybe right—when het homeboys start legitimizing themselves by claiming to be as "normal" as we are, as in this quote from a gangbanger in March's *Harper's Magazine*, "police officers can recognize police officers, athletes can recognize athletes, gay people can recognize gay people. Well, we can recognize each other. It's simple." Too simple...Caught **Al Jarreau** singing on **Johnny Carson** last week, where we were terrified that he was going to get caught and electrocuted by flinging his hands up onto a suspended stagelight. We were relieved when he finally sat down, but then while talking he nearly decapitated his host with his swinging wrists. Girlfriend, get a grip!...Africa **Oye!** at the **Pantages Theatre** in Hollywood, features African warriors doing a women's tribal dance in drag. You've got 'till July 9 to see if your cousins across the water transvestize like we do...What tall, fair and handsome southern esquire spent Gay Pride weekend in L.A. in a certain national gay activist's "booth"?...This week's homework: Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*. See it and we'll have a group discussion next month. See ya!



# BLK MARKET

## SERVICES

Erase bad credit. We may be able to help establish or re-establish your credit or maybe get the loan you need. By using the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair Credit Billing Act, the Fair Debt Collection Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, or the Truth in Lending Act, and our ability as credit consultants, we may be able to help you have repossessions, tax liens, judgements, late payments, other obsolete, misleading, erroneous or outdated information removed from your credit report. We also make house calls for a modest fee. And, we can help you get credit cards, car loans, bank loans, establish credit, re-establish credit, with collection agencies. Write Cam Credit Consultants, 1848 Redondo Blvd., Box 431158, Los Angeles, California 90043, or call 213-933-7672. (TF)

Win lotto guaranteed! Numerologist picks winning numbers scientifically. You win or get money back. 305-976-0003, toll plus \$2 minute. (12)

Prestige Club Complete Auto Detailers. Buy a new car or just make it look like one. Low price, prestige quality because at Prestige Club, you're one of us. Call 213-874-5437. (E)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Administrative Assistant. MECLA has full time, permanent position now open for an administrative assistant. Duties include typing, word processing, filing, deliveries, phone receptionist and other clerical services. Contact: Kimberly J. Miller at 213-938-8266. Health benefits provided. (8)

Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Sales experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (8)

Copy editor and grammar critic wanted. You love to find fault with other people's writing. You don't hesitate to criticize what doesn't work. You expect things to be perfect and don't accept excuses. Plus you want BLK to be a top notch publication. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (8)

Field Director Sought. National lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual to build and maintain constituent mail/pressure grassroots system. Recruit, motivate and administer local organizers and supervise Regional Field Reps to expand mail-

gram program, constituent lobbying, house meeting program and other grassroots activities. Strong people skills, detail-oriented, willing to travel critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (E)

Houseman. Older white man wants versatile houseman. Cook, gardener, driver, masseur, handyman. Live-in plus salary. Need car and references. Jack, Box 322, Suite 109, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046 (10)

Messenger/driver needed for consortium of three companies. Full time days. Beeper provided. Must be dependable, have economical car and clean driving record. Bring proof of insurance and DMV printout to interview. Call Bobby. 213-667-2549. (E)

Outreach Coordinator/South Central Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Foundation, AIDS, hospice, health experience, self-starter. Resume to AHF, 1800 N. Argyle Ave. #304, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (E)

Recovery Program Manager—gay/lesbian alcohol treatment facility seeks experienced and certified personnel. Prefer recovering, non-smoking gay or lesbian. Call or write for job description. \$19-24K negotiable. Van Ness Recovery House, 1919 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068. 213-463-4266. (8)

Regional Field Rep Sought. National lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual (to be based in Chicago or North Carolina) to build regional grassroots mail/pressure system. Coordinate house meeting project, seek local groups to canvass community events to expand mailgram program. People skills, detail-oriented and assertive self-starter critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (E)

Secretary/Non-profit. Excellent typing, writing, phone and computer skills. Microsoft Word experience preferred. General office and development support. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. Send resume to: National Gay Rights Advocates, 8901 Melrose Ave. #200, W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (8)

Writer/researcher to help with the BLK column, "Word Up." Must be creative, interested in seeking out the unusual and willing to put your nose in where it doesn't belong. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (8)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Wanted: Individuals who need help in sorting out job problems and life's priorities. Edgewood Counseling. 818-966-1755. (8)

Positive Image—A nationwide communications network for men who are HIV+, have ARC or AIDS and those who want to communicate with them. Free information. SASE. P/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (E)

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Step, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (E)

Ball Club—A nationwide communications network for men who have 'em and men who want 'em. Free information. SASE. BC/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (E)

## WANTED

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also accepted. Send with SASE to Revon Kyle Banneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

Women of color wanted for study of female sexuality. If you are lesbian or previously lesbian, but now with men, write Study, 1032 Irving St., Box 443, San Francisco, CA 94122. (E)

Nude Talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (9)

Black male nude models and men that like/desire to show their stuff. New! Black Stallion magazine needs your photos and stories, ads, etc. Also enter our "big dick" contest!!! Send photos to: C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., L.A., CA 90028. (9)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for a roommate for 3-bedroom house. \$350 month including utilities. Call 213-960-7748. (8)

## FOR SALE

Hot Black Men—The East Coast's best black men are in photographs by Weems-Works, now available in erotic photosets or art prints. For sample and brochure, mail request stating age (over 21) and \$10 to David Weems, c/o Weems-Works, Box 22886, Balti-

more, MD 21203. (TF)

Gay male video available by mail order. Send \$1.00 for list to: W. Hall, Box 40496, Dept. BLK, Pasadena, CA 91114-7496. (9)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Shiatsu/acupressure by licensed legitimate professional. \$45 for 90 minutes. Out only. I'm 6', 180 lbs., muscular, blond. 213-655-2452. (8)

Australian Rick, blond, blue, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40, offers hot massage, hot spa, warm conversation. Only \$40 in. 213-259-8485. (8)

Every inch is brought alive and relaxed. \$50 and travel if outside Hollywood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (10)

Very attractive black body-builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (E)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

WM, 45, seeks dominant BM for good times. Doug. 604-263-3991 (Vancouver). (9)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

GWM, 55, slim, active life, gym-oriented, horseback riding, home life and more. Enjoy most sex. Seeking a younger dominant black man with similar tastes. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (11)

Am interested in meeting people who like meeting people. Am 47 years old. Like easy-going, yet serious people. Love nature. G.E., Box 2202, St. Augustine, FL 32085. (9)

Professional GWM seeks BM friend. Be adventurous! Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (9)

GWM, 40s, 5'7", 135 lbs., G.p. F.a.p wishes to meet masculine black and/or Hispanic men to mutually explore the possibilities from lust to love. Write: Skip, 22 Benson Ave., Pennsville, NJ 08070. (9)

Where have all the older GBM gone?



Sincere GWM seeks friend/lover. Box 502, Kenmore, Boston, MA 02215. (8)

Attractive GWM, deep blue eyes, beard and moustache, 5'9", seeks masculine GBM who knows himself. Honest, sincere and a good sense of humor. Write with photo. Bruce, Box 2291, Meriden, CT 06450. (8)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53 years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or active. 40 to 70. No drugs, feds, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ 08607-2223. (9)

### PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

Slim WM. 517-484-6505, Box 4222, E. Lansing, MI 48826. (10)

GWM, professional; 37, 6'2", 180 lbs. would like to meet/respond with men of diverse cultural backgrounds. Romance, with affection, are important aspects that I would like to share. Write Rod, Box 8257, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. (10)

Attractive, hot, horny white male seeking attractive, hot black male with a smooth bubble butt to work safely. No drugs, feds or feds. Send photo. Box 7415, Dallas, TX 75209. (9)

Texas BM seeks friends and possibly more from across the country. No drugs or stereotypes. Am mature and professional and seek the same. A Jones, 5951 Melody Lane, Dallas, TX 75231. (9)

Attractive GWM, 27, seeks handsome, straight-appearing GBM. I'm tall dark and slim; professional; equally enjoy home and nightlife. Prefer tall and muscular, fun-loving guys. Box 486, Danville, IL 61834. (8)

Gay white mid-westerner, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., looking for black men for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (8)

WM, 50, seeks BM, any age, for sincere intimate relationship. No drugs. F/A/P. No G. Anxious to please you and be friends. Bill, Box 9645, Minneapolis, MN 55458. (8)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

### PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

Sexy GWM seeks cute GBM for serious relationship. 213-876-5871. (10)

Hot, handsome, in-shape GWM, 47, 5'10", 160 lbs., seeks handsome GBM for friendship and much more. Call James. 714-336-1305. (9)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim,

masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (8)

Creole male, good-looking, 30, 5'8", 145#, seeks Puerto Rican, brown Latin or brown men with big buns and nice build. Very hairy a plus. Should be versatile. Call Pat 818-892-5283. (9)

Send photo. BM seeking bottom with 9+ with bottom of muscles. Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (8)

Black man wanted by slim, young, attractive GWM. 415-923-0278. (10)

Commitment: B/M G/P seeks a sincere G/A man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1 and nature. M.T., Box 712071, Los Angeles 90071. (11)

I'm strictly Gr/A GWM. Have Gr/P lover. Seeking Gr/A BM to be buddy, little brother or son to spend time with us in Waikiki. Important: thick-long-hard dick and gentle spirit. Not important: age, looks and quietness. Write: T.J., Box 75116, Honolulu, HI 96836. (8)

BiBM, 34, 6', 175, hot, safe, total top, masculine, good-looking, hung 10x6 seeks hot, masculine, bottom. Photo/phone to Box 29243, Los Angeles 90027. (9)

Very attractive GBM, 22, 6'0", 170 lbs., relationship material, new to area, seeks under 33, good-looking GM, any race, drug free, safe sex, educated. BLK Box #6. (10)

Horse-hung guys wanted by masculine, hot, blonde boy. I'm 22, tan, slim, smooth, and seek guys hung 10" or more and XXX thick for service and safe fun. Nude photo a must to MJ, 8033 Sunset #411, L.A. 90046. (9)

Fine white dude, healthy, hung seeks big black dick. Mutual. Safe. 213-281-6998. Be all man. (Uncut a plus.) (9)

Tight body and hot, white butt wants black dudes with a least 9x6 who know how to work ass. 213-656-5371. (10)

Do you desire the love of another brother? Tall, handsome, BM, 27, 210 lbs. is seeking a one-on-one with a handsome, versatile or strictly top BM of similar dimensions. Does kissing, holding hands and good "lovemaking" excite you? Then, only the affectionate yet masculine need respond. Serious replies only. Call 213-660-3862. (8)

Redhead, WM, 6'2", 175, 7" seeks safe sex w/SFV 7"+ masculine blk/M. BLK Box #5. (8)

Write attractive GWM: Boke, 2110 Ninth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. (10)

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160 lbs. quiet, pleasant natured, drug-free, wishes to meet black, married, educated with good body for regular meetings with utmost discretion and safety assured. You be 6'2", + 30-40 yrs., big skin 7+, top, and be genuine, sincere and who wants

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the best of both worlds. Photo appreciated and returned. No games. Only the serious need apply. BLK Box #4. (9)

Asian, 33, 5'9", seeks athletic 20-35 for safe relationship. 415-827-9973. (9)

2 GWM seek well-hung GBM for safe sex. Box 74030, L.A., CA 90004. (9)

Handsome, 60, top, British, seeks creative tongue. Hairy a plus. Pic/phone. Under 45. 8721 Santa Monica #155, L.A. 90069. (8)

GWM interested in getting together with a top GBM, well hung 9"+, to hump these tight buns at my place in the San Gabriel Valley for a good relationship and good safe sex. If interested, please call 818-369-6350. If no answer, please leave message. You won't be sorry. (8)

Butch, 33, good-looking, WM, 6'2", bottom, 210 lbs., BB, 46°C, 33"W, 17"A, bubble butt, professional, new to Huntington Beach, seeks masculine black top only (30-40), dominant, kinky, professional. Call after 6 p.m. 714-969-1582. Mark. (8)

Blonde, blue-eyed GM, 45, 5'10", 175 pounds, good body, big arms, seeks black or Latin male, 20-40, thin or muscular, well-hung, top for safe sex. Call 213-285-3579. Leave message. (9)

Hot WM, 38, blond/blue, tan, moustache, wants to meet attractive BM, 20-40, intelligent, sense of humor important. Ph/ph to: Box 8107, Glendale, CA 91224. (9)

Are you a dark GBM, under 29, who enjoys dancing, bodybuilding and is self-sufficient? If yes, and you like what follows, contact me at BLK Box #3. I am 6'1", 151 lbs., 22 years old, fair and in the process of muscular development. Seeking workout partner with interest in a 1-on-1 relationship. (9)

Stocky, white male, 49 (interests: music, travel, intimate moments) seeks black top buddy, 49-65, sensual, intelligent, caring. 415-527-4460 or write Bill, Box 9369, Berkeley, CA 94709. (9)

Uncut, good-looking, African-born white European, muscular, clean-shaven, blue eyes, 29, 5'11", 175 seeks intelligent, masculine, tall, very muscular, hunky black bodybuilder for friendship. Box 69A27, L.A. 90069. (8)

In-shape older black gentleman with 8" wants to watch 2 young black bucks play in the dark. No participation necessary. Will pay expenses. Discretion essential. Warren, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233. (8)

Free massage for fit, smooth BM with big buns by WM, 36, professional, 6'0", 173 lbs. Mike 213-483-1517. (8)

Michael Rucker: Miss ya. Write! Box 18A255, L.A., CA 90018. (9)

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hol-

lywood, CA 91607. (8)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, California 90004. (11)

Good-looking black athlete, 31, top, masculine, muscular, moustache, seeks younger, masculine, muscular, randy white boys who are bottom, streetwise and live for safe, clean fun. Serious replies only. 619-291-7834. (8)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (8)

Straight black Puerto Rican stud, 42, hung 12x7 needs service from hung 10+. Only reply with photo and phone. Need 100% discretion. Leon Jackson, 8829 National Blvd., #75, Culver City, CA 90232. (7)

Handsome, articulate BM, 38, 6'2", 175 lbs., swimmer's build, Fr A/P, fro-tage, desires discreet liason with attractive, mature BM, 40-55, fit, 6'5", or taller. Your photo gets mine. BLK Box #1. (7)

Looking for dark, hairy, tall, attractive, nice build, black or Latin-type, between 30-50 years. You must be professional, spiritual, sincere and romantic, and sexually be G/A or F/A/P (safe sex). Nipple play is nice. I am tall, slim, 6'2", 170, 36 years, blond, tan, green-eyed, health-oriented, nice build, G/P. Exchange of photos a must. Larca, 2407 Wishire Blvd., Box 285, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (7)

GWM, mid-years bodybuilder stud (body of 25 weightlifter ...better!) "great" peccs, wild in the sack (make you groan and burn!), masculine rugged-looking, hot, seeks GBM, bodybuilder or surf body (no plumps!). Photo/phone. Danny, Box 11658 Chandler Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601. I dig massaging (using oil!) (7)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond, beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. (7)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disappointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Hollywood, CA 90078. (7)

Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138. (7)

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•Replying to a BLK box. Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

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•Rules and regulations. A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. Ads not accepted over the telephone. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

Please complete and sign the following. This information will not appear in your ad.

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Address

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Phone ( )

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

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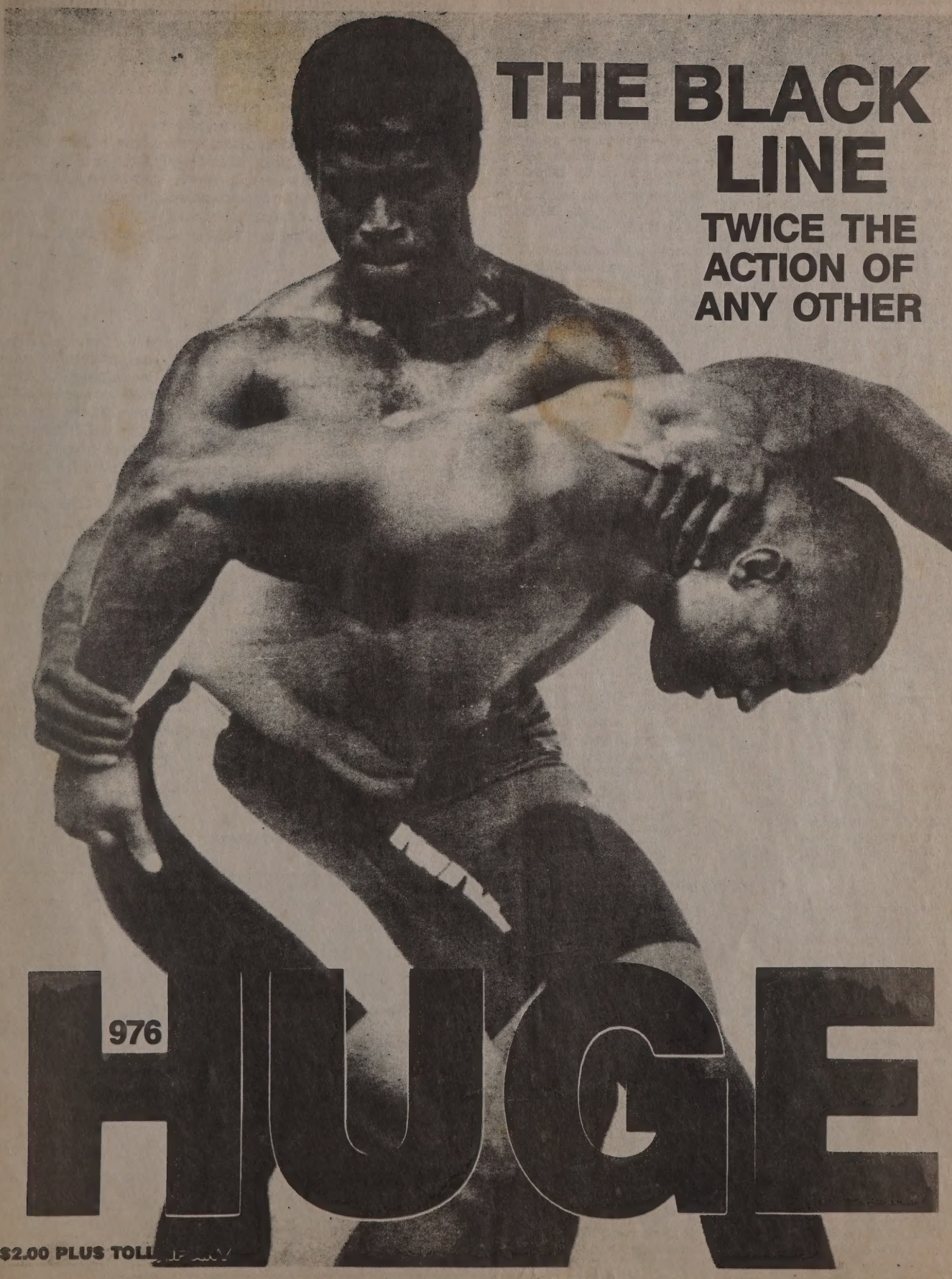
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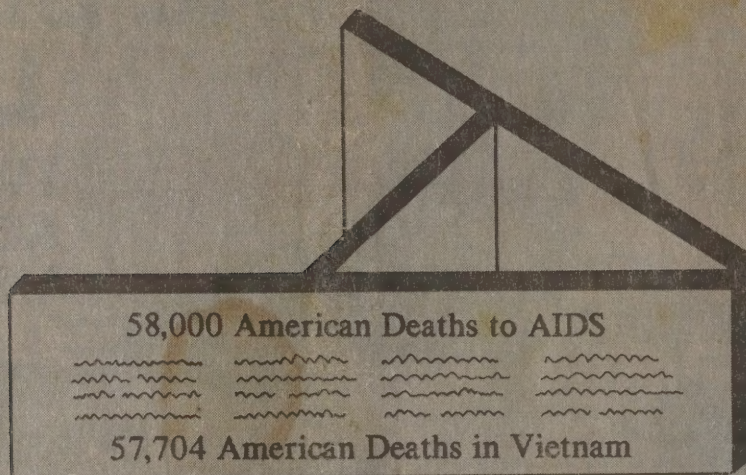
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# WAR ON AIDS MEMORIAL



## 57 HOURS OF REMEMBRANCE

As of July 1989 more Americans will have died of AIDS than in Vietnam.

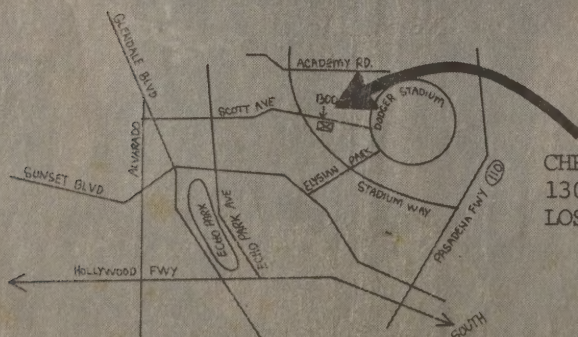
AIDS will kill many more Americans, perhaps more than World War II, if we do not redouble our efforts to stop it.

An 8' by 20' "A" with the names of many who have died of AIDS is being built on the grounds of Chris Brownlie Hospice in Elysian Park. (Beginning at 9 AM Thursday, July 13th, and continuing until 4 PM Saturday, July 15th)

As the "V" in Washington has symbolized the tragic loss of life in Vietnam, this temporary "A" will commemorate the casualties to AIDS.

You are invited to come and place a name, message, flower, or a memento by the memorial.

**Opening Ceremonies: 9 AM Thursday, July 13th**  
**Closing Ceremonies: 4 PM Saturday, July 15th**



CHRIS BROWNLIE HOSPICE  
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Sponsored by AIDS Hospice Foundation, Being Alive, Mothers of Aids Patients Los Angeles, Families Who Care, Names Project L.A. County, Northern Lights Alternatives -- Sally Fisher, United Spirit Church -- Rev. Scott, The Hay House -- Louise Hay







# MINORITY A.I.D.S. PROJECT



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# WORD UP

## Handwriting on the Hall

In a cover story article that very carefully documents Arsenio Hall's attraction to and by women, Barry Michael Cooper in the *Village Voice* writes: "But all of the female ogling don't mean a thing to Arsenio because, according to homeboys and homegirls in the know, 'he's a *homo*, right?' Arsenio pushes the limits of his public persona, flipping back and forth between a hard-rock gangster swagger and a campy, finger-snapping parody of the swishing, bandanna-wearin', don't-try-it-girl black gay man. His sexual energy allows him to play both the transvestite in *Coming to America*, looking like a mako shark in mascara, and a slimy, skirt-chasing preacher. Arsenio stands on top of the fence, always ready to lean in either direction to set up the next punchline, always catching himself at the last second before he falls."

## Double Take the Bus

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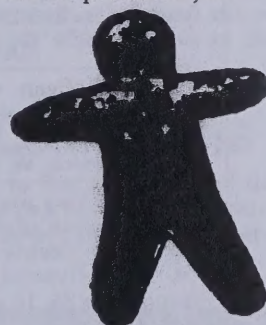
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**FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1989**

Annual Catalina Boat Cruise sponsored by Catch One Disco. This year the cruise will have a Hawaiian theme. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$15 ticket includes after-hours admission to Catch One. For more information, call Carlton at 213-737-1159.

**Next Month**

**in BLK**

**An Interview with**

**Jewel Williams**

**Owner of**

**Catch One and Jewel's Room**

## News of the BLK Family

Lompoc, California resident A. J. Benny, joins the BLK art department as staff cartoonist. Currently a offset press operator, Benny has worked on a number of small magazines including the base newspaper when he was in the Air Force.

## Corrections & Omissions

Although he was not pictured in the photograph of the group that attended the "Hot, Horney and Healthy" training workshop [BLK, June 1979], Randy Schultz did attend and participate.

# BLK

Number 8, July 1989

**Editor and Publisher Alan Bell**

**Staff Writers** Revon Kyle Banneker, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Chi Hughes, Jarvis D. Moore

**Contributors** Clarence Burns III, L. Paul Davis,

Lars Eighner, Frank Hall, L. Lloyd Jordan, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen, Blair Nix

**Listings** Ron Parker

**Production Assistant** Oscar D. Smith, Jr.

**Cartoonist** A. J. Benny

**Photographers** Bob Finney, Terry Johnson, David Weems

**Advertising** Asif Zaman

**Public Relations** Gene Cornelius

**Distribution** Rudy Carn

**Finance** Howard McPhatter

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**Cover:** Rev. Carl Bean



# Pat Parker

*Noted black lesbian writer and activist dies following battle with illness*

**By Ayofemi Stowe Folayan**

Wednesday, June 21, 1989 was the annual summer solstice, that point in the celestial calendar that marks the longest day in the year. The gift of extra daylight was appropriate: one of the leading lights in the constellation of lesbian luminaries had dimmed with the death of writer and activist Pat Parker the preceding Saturday. Like the cavernous "black holes" in space, those super-charged masses of energy that no longer directly transmit their starlight directly to earth, Pat Parker leaves behind a legacy of words and deeds that will continue to resonate long into the future.

I had the good fortune to provide transportation for Pat during her last visit to Southern California in March of this

## REMEMBRANCE

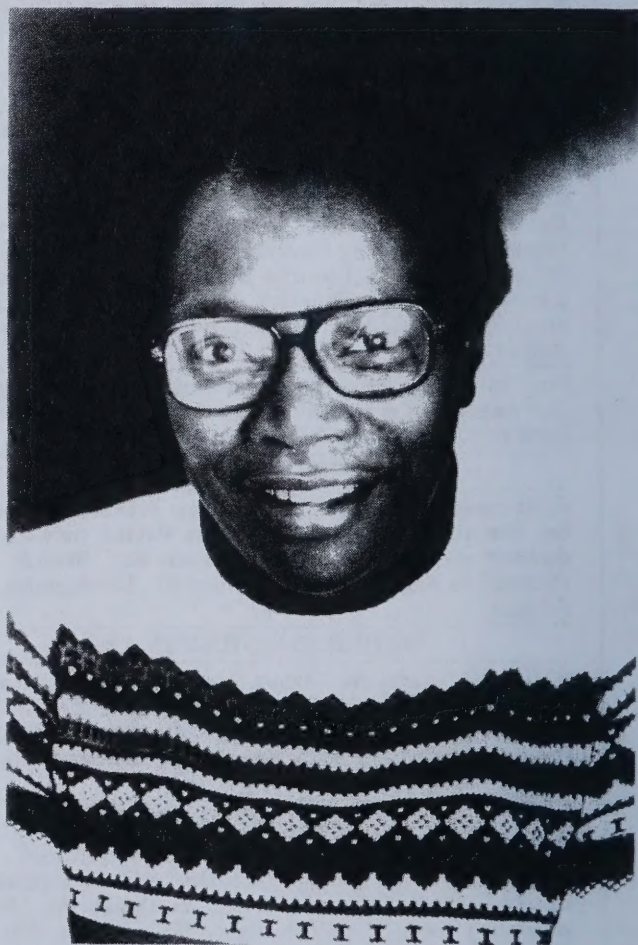
year, when she read as part of the Celebration of Women's History at California State University, Los Angeles with poet Cheryl Clarke. This reading was especially important to Pat, because she would have a chance to fulfill a longtime desire to share the stage with her two sisters, Ethel and Diane, in the reading of her narrative poem, "Movement in Black." Her excitement and nervousness were evident as she rehearsed the quartet of readers (which also included her niece and myself). During the actual reading, Pat was clearly bursting with pride as she introduced her sisters to the audience.

The passionate connection with her family is also illustrated in the epic poem, "Womanslaughter," which recounts the murder of Pat's third sister. Many of Pat Parker's poems also celebrate her relationship with her partner. Parker also had two children, and during her visit to Southern California she made a point of finding special gifts for them.

Pat Parker reached out in a loving and inclusive way to people all over the country in her writing and public appearances. She always had time to talk with members of the audience after readings or to respond personally to letters. She frequently reminded us all by her example of the importance of mentorship within our community, passing on to others the information and experience she had accumulated from her participation in community organizations as diverse as the Black Panthers and the Feminist Women's Health Center.

Her poetry addressed issues of liberation and empowerment as well as publicly asking dangerous questions, such as "What really happened in Jonestown (where 900 mostly black people, many from the Northern California area, supposedly "committed suicide" in November of 1978)? A prolific author, Parker's published works included *Pit Stop*, *Womanslaughter*, *Movement in Black*, and *Jonestown and Other Madness*. She also created a record album with feminist author Judy Grahn.

On her final night here in Los Angeles, Pat arrived at her



**Pat Parker**

reading decked out in her "Texas shitkicker" outfit, complete with leather boots and an enormous broad-brimmed black "cowgirl" hat. She read some of her poetry, then struggled through handwritten notes in her journal to share a short story about being caught by her father making love with another girl when she was an adolescent. The audience was enveloped by the magic of Parker's voice and words.

After the reading, we went to The Connection, a local women's bar. There, Pat Parker played darts and Ms. PacMan with the same full-throttle intensity that was the hallmark of her life and work. I am grateful that my own life was illuminated by her energy and vision. As a writer and activist, it inspires me to carry on the torch she bore with such inspiration.



# BEING ALIVE

PEOPLE WITH AIDS ACTION COALITION

is an organization OF and FOR people with AIDS, people with ARC, and people who are HIV positive.

We're uniting to provide each other with the support and information  
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### ☐ NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS

Connecting people with others in their local area to share support, information, and good company.

### ☐ VITAL INFORMATION

The latest on treatments, protocols, monitoring, and intervention strategies.

### ☐ SPEAKERS BUREAU

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- people living with AIDS.

### ☐ SOCIAL EVENTS

Ending the isolation and creating a community of support.

### ☐ NEWSLETTER AND MONTHLY MEETINGS

Bringing the community together,  
keeping the community informed.

**WE INVITE YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT.**

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To join or Volunteer, contact us at: 4222 Santa Monica Blvd. #105 Los Angeles, CA 90029  
213.667.3262 Office hours: Mon-Fri NOON-7 PM Sat NOON-4 PM



# BLK

Number





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Starring

DIONNE WARWICK  
F. EVEREND CARL BEAN

NATALIE COLE

HON. MAXINE WATERS

PERRI. TAUREAN BLAQUE

CLIFTON DAVIS

THELMA HOUSTON

THE SWEET INSPIRATIONS

KEITH PRINGLE

CASSIETTA GEORGE

HENRY JACKSON

PENTECOSTAL COMMUNITY CHOIR

and many others

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# WORD UP

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The second biannual Adodi Retreat entitled, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS," will take place July 21-23, 1989 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, a village 30 miles outside Philadelphia. For additional information, contact Larry Hadley at 215-662-1755, Cliff Rawlins at 215-727-1084 or write Adodi, Box 19132, Philadelphia, Penn. 19103.

**SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1989**

Photography Playshop. Lapis/Lesbians of Color, Alcoholism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$20 for supplies. No one turned away for lack of funds. For more information, call Milagros or Billie at 213-381-7805, noon-5 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1989**

Annual Catalina Boat Cruise sponsored by Catch One Disco. This year the cruise will have a Hawaiian theme. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. \$15 ticket includes after-hours admission to Catch One. For more information, call Carlton at 213-737-1159.

**Next Month**

**in BLK**

**An Interview with**

**Jewel Williams**

**Owner of**

**Catch One and Jewel's Room**

## News of the BLK Family

Lompoc, California resident A. J. Benny, joins the BLK art department as staff cartoonist. Currently an offset press operator, Benny has worked on a number of small magazines including the base newspaper when he was in the Air Force.

## Corrections & Omissions

Although he was not pictured in the photograph of the group that attended the 'Hot, Horney and Healthy' training workshop [BLK, June 1979], Randy Schultz did attend and participate.

# BLK

Number 8, July 1989

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**Cover:** Rev. Carl Bean



# Pat Parker

*Noted black lesbian writer and activist dies following battle with illness*

**By Ayofemi Stowe Folayan**

**W**ednesday, June 21, 1989 was the annual summer solstice, that point in the celestial calendar that marks the longest day in the year. The gift of extra daylight was appropriate: one of the leading lights in the constellation of lesbian luminaries had dimmed with the death of writer and activist Pat Parker the preceding Saturday. Like the cavernous "black holes" in space, those super-charged masses of energy that no longer directly transmit their starlight directly to earth, Pat Parker leaves behind a legacy of words and deeds that will continue to resonate long into the future.

I had the good fortune to provide transportation for Pat during her last visit to Southern California in March of this

## REMEMBRANCE

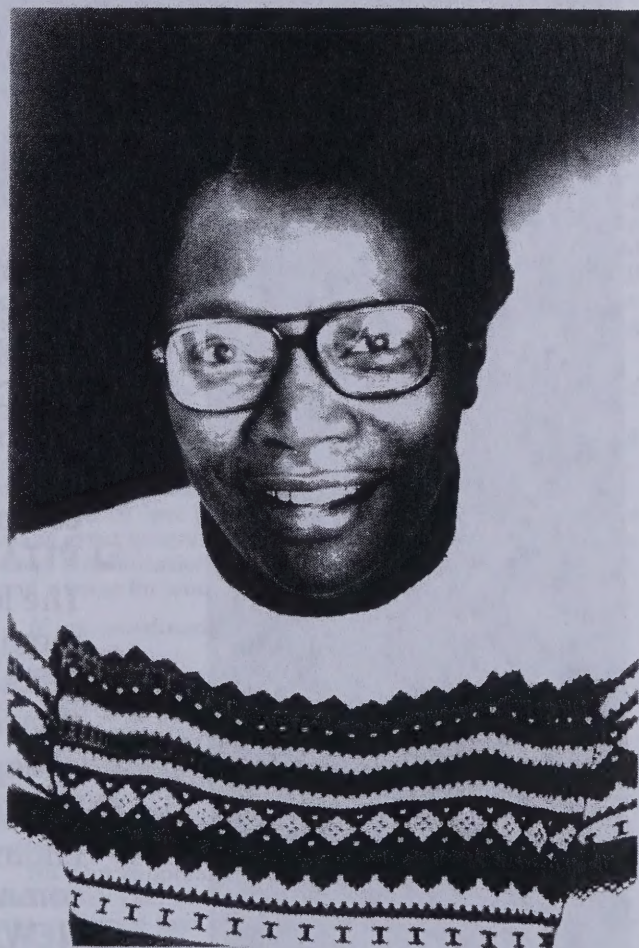
year, when she read as part of the Celebration of Women's History at California State University, Los Angeles with poet Cheryl Clarke. This reading was especially important to Pat, because she would have a chance to fulfill a longtime desire to share the stage with her two sisters, Ethel and Diane, in the reading of her narrative poem, "Movement in Black." Her excitement and nervousness were evident as she rehearsed the quartet of readers (which also included her niece and myself). During the actual reading, Pat was clearly bursting with pride as she introduced her sisters to the audience.

The passionate connection with her family is also illustrated in the epic poem, "Womanslaughter," which recounts the murder of Pat's third sister. Many of Pat Parker's poems also celebrate her relationship with her partner. Parker also had two children, and during her visit to Southern California she made a point of finding special gifts for them.

Pat Parker reached out in a loving and inclusive way to people all over the country in her writing and public appearances. She always had time to talk with members of the audience after readings or to respond personally to letters. She frequently reminded us all by her example of the importance of mentorship within our community, passing on to others the information and experience she had accumulated from her participation in community organizations as diverse as the Black Panthers and the Feminist Women's Health Center.

Her poetry addressed issues of liberation and empowerment as well as publicly asking dangerous questions, such as "What really happened in Jonestown (where 900 mostly black people, many from the Northern California area, supposedly "committed suicide" in November of 1978)? A prolific author, Parker's published works included *Pit Stop*, *Womanslaughter*, *Movement in Black*, and *Jonestown and Other Madness*. She also created a record album with feminist author Judy Grahn.

On her final night here in Los Angeles, Pat arrived at her



**Pat Parker**

reading decked out in her "Texas shitkicker" outfit, complete with leather boots and an enormous broad-brimmed black "cowgirl" hat. She read some of her poetry, then struggled through handwritten notes in her journal to share a short story about being caught by her father making love with another girl when she was an adolescent. The audience was enveloped by the magic of Parker's voice and words.

After the reading, we went to The Connection, a local women's bar. There, Pat Parker played darts and Ms. PacMan with the same full-throttle intensity that was the hallmark of her life and work. I am grateful that my own life was illuminated by her energy and vision. As a writer and activist, it inspires me to carry on the torch she bore with such inspiration.



# BEING ALIVE

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- we need to lead happy and productive lives.

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# Rev. Carl Bean

*Perhaps the most important black gay AIDS activist in the entire world*

**By Revon Kyle Banneker**

*It's not any day, nor even any lifetime, that one meets a man like Carl Bean.*

*Perhaps it's the glowing smile, the wise disposition, or that resonant, reassuring minister's voice we remember hearing and revering as kids. Whatever it is that makes the impression, after a handshake and a few moments of conversation with Rev. Bean, you know you've connected with someone.*

*A charismatic leader with a knack for getting things done, Rev. Bean in a few short years has founded and carried the Unity Fellowship Church*

## THE BLK INTERVIEW

*and the Minority AIDS Project (MAP) to nearly institutional status in Los Angeles' black gay community.*

*The man has a talent for inspiring those around him to exceed their potential. Many young blacks credit him for their conquest of drugs and streetlife, or with discovery and acceptance of who they are. Rev. Bean brings to his work a background rich in black culture, steeped in the gay experience, decorated with musical talent, and with roots sunk deep in the teachings of the church.*

*To be sure, the Reverend has his share of doubters and detractors, but they appear to be far outnumbered by those who regard him as a savior and a visionary.*

*In two interviews with Rev. Bean, BLK explored the make-up of this self-avowed black gay minister who has made a difference in the spiritual lives of many and given birth to a minority institution that is being celebrated from Watts to Washington, D.C.*

**U**ntil now, you've been the pastor of Unity Fellowship Church and the executive director of the Minority AIDS Project, both entities that you founded. We understand that on June 1 you stepped down as executive director of MAP. What is the reason?

Actually, I didn't be step down as much as stepped up. My new title is chief executive officer of Unity Fellowship Ministries. MAP's reins will be taken over by Gil Gerald, who was executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. We are friends and founding members of the National Minority AIDS Council.

*Was the change of responsibilities your idea or MAP's board of directors?*

My idea. I've been asking for help for a long time. MAP has grown so much, and my church has grown just as much over the same time period. MAP is an outreach

project of the church, that I became so involved in that I found myself shorting my congregation. It seems every week or so I was on a plane to give a speech or ask for funds somewhere. I became a national spokesperson for AIDS in the black community, and I've had to turn down a lot of speaking engagements already this year. Now I can be in L.A. more, doing what a minister should be doing—things like visiting hospital wards and prisons, and seeing after the needs of the church and congregation. Now I can really be Rev. Bean. There's so much to be done. I could have counseling sessions with gay church members all day; there are young people who want to go into the ministry whom I need to help; we're in the process of developing a Sunday school.

*As CEO, technically you would still be over Mr. Gerald and have the last word concerning MAP matters, correct?*

Yes. And my office will be in the same place and I will remain on the board of MAP. But remember, we have several other outreach programs in the works that will operate more or less parallel with MAP. For example, we've made great progress with a latch key program for youth, a drug rehabilitation program, an incest survivors' group, and a home for women with AIDS who have children.

*If you coordinate all of that, will you still have time for your church?*

Yes, since all of those programs will have people like Mr. Gerald mainly responsible for them.

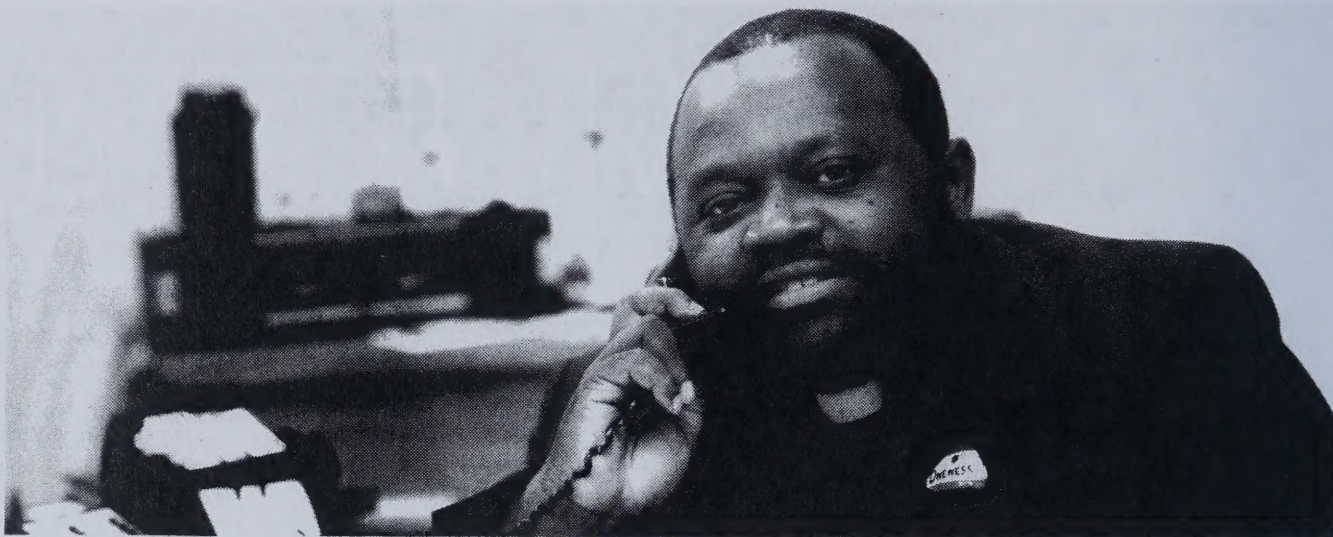
*Apparently, all of the inner city AIDS support organizations, including MAP, initially were not refunded this year because of poor proposals or something. In the case of MAP, do you think that the fact that you were spreading yourself thin is part of the reason MAP wasn't funded?*

No. Our proposals were on time and were written very well. After loud complaints were heard, the funding agencies explained that the funds were not dispensed correctly in the beginning, but they overturned their decisions. They said that two or three proposals were up to par, one of which was obviously ours, so we were funded. They did say that several proposals were not written well at all, but they wouldn't name which ones.

It's unfortunate that happened, but it goes back to the old thing about legalities and technicalities that a black-run operation may not be aware of. Many people who would like to help don't know the system, and the system was not created with them in mind. The system must bend to accommodate all. For example, you might have a woman who is the most caring, loving, and honest human being in the world, and the best person in the world to care for someone sick. But the funding will go to the one who can write the best proposal, which probably means it won't go to her.

*Everything you're doing here started with your founding*





Rev. Carl Bean. Photo by Terry Johnson.

*of the Unity Fellowship Church. What brought about your decision to start a gay-oriented church?*

I've never been one to say "Yes, I know this match is burning me but I'm going to ignore this fire." When I started the church it was out of that need or desire to do something to help people know their place in creation, their place in life, their right to a spiritual path, their right to their belief in their culture, their right to a place of worship where they are free and comfortable and don't have to masquerade as someone else.

I went to people and asked about the idea of a gay-oriented church, and I kept getting "yes," and "great." That was in 1984. In 1985 we started Bible study on Monday nights in a black lesbian's home. There were four or five of us then, but it kept growing week to week. After a while her living room was not large enough, and then her living and dining room together were not large enough. Soon we organized formally and got our tax-exempt status. We had our first church service at the Cockatoo Inn in Inglewood. About that time we wanted to broadcast our existence. We thought of advertising in the gay rags, naturally, but I wanted to also advertise in the *Sentinel*. Everyone said no, it wouldn't work, but we sent in a notice anyway. To our surprise, the *Sentinel* printed it prominently. We were blown away. It was like the time had come.

*Is Unity Fellowship for gays only?*

Not at all. Heterosexuals, too. Whole families have joined.

*Does being a self-avowed gay man in the ministry present problems for you?*

No. Because I know who I am. There was a time when I had to deal with reconciling differences. I was a believer in the teachings of Jesus since a young boy. Later, when I learned about my sexuality, and the church saying I couldn't be who I am and still be loved by God—I spent many wasted years trying to find a place to run to where I could be human, accepted, and OK. Some of those years were spent trying to change me to be something that I was never going to be. It took years to find myself.

*Have you had formal training in theology?*

Yes. My training has been a life-long thing. At a very early age I was fortunate enough to be sent to Virginia Union in an accelerated course at about age 10. I was always a part of the Baptist World Youth Seminars, the kid that would win the Bible drills, and the kids that

would win for developing programming for Baptist training unions. Later, I left gospel singing for a while and enrolled in Bible college in the mountains of Jersey. I started doing correspondence courses. It was always an evolving thing for me. On Broadway I was introduced to the *Power of Positive Thinking* by Norman Vincent Peal. When I came to California I joined MCC [Metropolitan Community Church], because it was the first I'd ever heard of a liberated church dealing with gays and Christianity. I cried the first day I walked in there. I remember the day I walked in the Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center on Wilshire when it consisted of two old broken down houses. I remember then—it was about '72 or '73—we were so glad to have a place to go and just talk. We weren't concerned with race. We had rap groups of every religion and race, just loving each other so. I miss that.

And then we were being entrapped by the police and going to jail. We were afraid that if we showed too much personal feeling in a bar in those days we would be locked up.

*Did you ever go to jail?*

Yes, of course I did. I was locked up maybe four or five times.

*Was that only in California, or when you were living back East as well?*

Only here. I remember being entrapped. There was a guy smiling at me, winking, dressed very obvious with everything showing, touching his body and all. Then when I made the move to say hello, let's get something going on, out came the badge and the handcuffs. I went through all of that. I knew the need for a center for blacks.

*So you don't have a degree in theology.*

No, but I am an ordained minister.

*Doesn't the Bible say "you shouldn't be gay?"*

No, not at all. The Bible says many things. The Bible was written by people at a particular point in history. It is mostly the understanding of the day and time. It is basically the history of the Jewish people; Jesus himself was a Jew. It is a wonderful book of faith. It has all one would need, if one studies it properly, to enlighten us to proceed in a path of life. But it also has the history of the time. Women were second, third class citizens with no rights. The Bible has many references that attest to her being that, being the homemaker and staying at home. In the



writings of Paul in the New Testament a woman was to be silent in church, and if there were anything she needed to ask she couldn't ask it in church but only at home of her husband. That same writing says that slaves were to be happy Christian slaves, and if their master was also a Christian they were not to be angry or hate them, but be content because in the sight of God we are all free. Much of today's racism and prejudice against women is partially asserted by Christendom.

*Now, isn't there a reference in—I believe it's Leviticus—to the idea that man should not lie...*

...with mankind as with womankind. It also says in Leviticus that you cannot eat any parts of the pig, and if we were to follow that Levitical law then no black Baptist could be a person of faith and a believer. It also says in there that you cannot wear any garment sewn with two different types of thread, like cotton and rayon. To do that was an abomination. I mean, the list in Leviticus of thou shalt not! Through time, and through knowledge, and through study we have found out that these things have nothing to do with the soul or loving, and some people are trying to pull one or two things out of the list that have not been changed with time, and then say all the rest of the list has been changed with time. That's hogwash!

*Are you saying we have to take the words of the Bible with a grain of salt?*

I'm saying you have to interpret it in the context of what was written, at the time it was written, and why it was written. Those people could not have accepted that we would be flying up in the sky today. I'm sure they would say we were witches and that we were not godly.

*How did the Minority AIDS Project come about?*

We've developed a slogan about this whole thing that goes "Silence=Death." I realized one day that as a black gay man who was aware of this virus, who had lost friends to it, who had to live daily with the fear of it possibly showing up in my own system some day, that if I didn't spread my knowledge then I was the silence that would spell death for others. So I HAD to do something.

MAP is an outreach of the church. We asked ourselves how we could deal with the principles of love when there's



*"San Francisco mayor John Hansworth was accused today of being a practicing heterosexual. He angrily denied the charge."*

this great problem in our lives. Instead of sending money to Africa, we said that since we are black gays and lesbians, the biggest issue we must deal with now is AIDS. Nobody else is going to touch it, it will have to be us, so let's start. We started looking for money to do it with, for people who would become buddies to people with AIDS. I had no idea what would happen.

The early days were very difficult. I've never driven a car, so much of my visiting was done by bus. There were days I would get so tired from traveling from Santa Monica Hospital to Kaiser Bellflower. But I'd forget about that the minute I'd enter a room with one of my black brothers who would say, "Thank you for coming; no one ever comes to see me." That was in 1984-85 before we knew very much about it. Everyone was scared. Brothers would say how the technicians and nurses would stand outside and look in the windows of their rooms, talk about them, and leave their meals outside. I went to see a client at UCLA, and I'll never forget this little old black cleaning lady I saw there. If she hadn't come to clean that man's room, he would never have gotten his food. The lady picked up his tray from outside the room, brought it to his bed and began to feed him. She was not a technician from the dietary department, she was the cleaning lady. Some of the food had gotten cold and she even heated it in a microwave. I felt like here was one of my people that really was supposed to be mopping and emptying trash, but who stopped doing that to help someone. She didn't know about AIDS either, whether she could catch it or not. But her heart, her true commitment propelled her beyond whether she could catch it. She was humming a hymn. When I looked in her face it was saying, "I must respond to human need." Those kinds of events constantly pushed me on.

I set out to study AIDS. I canvassed everything, contacting every organization and source I could find, hungry for any tidbit of knowledge about AIDS. I began training with the Shanti organization in West Hollywood. They had asked if I'd please stay and work with them, because they had been trying to get someone from the black community. It was during their training that I first learned that blacks represented 25 percent of AIDS cases, even though we represented only about 12 percent of the population. Black women made up about 50 percent of all women affected. I said to myself, "Oh, no. I can't stay up here in West Hollywood. I gotta go home with this." I had a two-year agreement to work with them. When the time was up, the executive director said to me, "I knew when you walked through our doors that you wouldn't be able to stay, that you would have to leave. But I want you to know that I understand." He was a very spiritual man, who died himself a few years ago.

I wanted to start by going on the air to spread the word. I started calling around to black radio, asking to do one of those phone in shows, where I could tell the community what AIDS was, how you catch it, etc. Most slammed their doors tight in my face, saying, "No, that's not our problem, that's a white gay thing." After explaining things a bit to them they would still say "no." The first station that let us on was KJLH, Jackie Stevens. She said it sounded like a great show and asked if I could come in that Sunday. I did the show with a few doctors and it was fantastic. The phones rang off the hook. Later, the *L.A. Times* did a big article on us in the Sunday View section and gave my home phone number as a means of contact. That opened the floodgates. I had nothing then but a P.O. box up on Wilshire Blvd. The phone rang off the hook; the brothers had begun to call.

When that article appeared in the *Times*, I had no idea that MAP would be born out of that phone number. I had no idea I'd be sitting here today.



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One brother called from a Kaiser hospital and asked if I'd please come and see him. He said, "When I saw the paper today, and you were black, it was the first time I've had any hope since I've had this disease." I said I would come see him. Then he said, "There's one other thing I want to ask you. Will you please tell my family that I'm homosexual?" I told him I didn't think it was my place. He said he just couldn't do it himself, and asked if I would at least stand in the room with him, because then he might be able to tell them. I put the phone down and I was a mess. I cried for hours. I knew then that I was doing the right thing and there was no turning back.

That was the beginning.

*Where did you get funding from in those early days, before it was "popular" to run such a service?*

The first little fundraiser we had to support MAP came from a rummage sale in the parking lot of Jewel's Catch One. Prior to the sale, I had heard so many good things about Assemblywoman Maxine Waters—that she was a good human being who truly believed in liberation for everybody—so I tried to contact her for help. I told her aide I was calling about fighting AIDS in the black community. To my surprise, when I got home that evening she had called and left a message for me on my answering machine. I called her back to explain. She listened and then asked what she could do. I asked her if she could come to the rummage sale we had planned, that we weren't well organized yet but I thought her presence would encourage the people and make them know that someone cared. She said, "You got it." She not only came, she stayed three hours! She talked with me like she'd known me for years. She stayed and talked and helped sell things. She talked to the gay and lesbian folks and their mothers. No one could ever, ever make me say anything against that

woman. And she's been there ever since.

Acting on a contact she gave me, some of our first monies came from the community—from The Brotherhood Crusade. They did a press release on us that helped a lot. Bear in mind that I never forced the community to do anything. I would just lay things out and see what would happen. That's been the pattern since the start. We found our first site on Pico Blvd. west of Fairfax. The Brotherhood Crusade paid the first, last, and that month's rent.

*How large is the MAP staff?*

We have about eight salaried employees, including a registered nurse, licensed social workers, community workers, an administrative assistant, secretarial positions.

*Do you serve only blacks, and how many people would you say you've reached since inception?*

Our clients are about 50-50 black and Hispanic. I'd guess we've served more than 700 people through visits, money grants, performing funerals, support groups, and buddies. We've buried some that we never had as clients in life. We may have gotten a referral, for example, but by the time we got to the hospital the next day, the person had passed. But sometimes there's no family but we still take responsibility for the burial.

*What's MAP's budget?*

I think we are now close to about \$700,000.

*Is that the amount you need to operate on for a year?*

That's what we've gotten in grants; it pays the salaries of staff people and some of the bills.

*Some of your critics have said that you don't really concentrate your efforts in the black community. Is that true?*

The proof is in the pudding. My church is black. Every Sunday 170 to 200 blacks convene here on the corner of

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Jefferson and Sycamore.

*More specifically, for example, we understand you've gone to Watts perhaps only one time, and then only because TV coverage was offered.*

We went to do that Nickerson Gardens walk through because nobody over there would do anything. You can't have it both ways. If you [a local agency] have programming in a particular part of the city, and you've got the same money I'm getting but can't even help a place you can spit on through your window, and you're not educating and they've got to come get me to do it—now who's doing what?

*Are you limited as to the geographical area you cover?*

Not at all. Come to my church. My church is filled with black folk from all over—and not with Ph.D.s and master's degrees—they're everyday black kids.

*Well, not everyone can get here, either because the bus fare isn't there or a person suffers from that state of mind that makes them deathly afraid to leave the home turf.*

I just told you I used to ride from Century City to Bellflower on the bus—to go to them! To go to them! I've never driven a car. I was eight months behind in rent at one point. The Minority AIDS Project didn't even exist then. The detractors—I have a question for them: What are they doing? What are they doing but running their mouths?

*All right, let me throw the rest of this at you. You've also been accused of being a "power hungry publicity hog."*

If I were a power hungry publicity hog I would have a paid publicist, and Rev. Carl Bean would take a salary. Rev. Carl Bean still doesn't take one. He still keeps people here so they can take care of our people. Jealousy is a terrible thing.

*They're jealous, then?*

Oh, of course they are. Jealousy is a terrible thing. Envy is a horrible thing. One of the Ten Commandments—thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house or wife or whatever—one of the reasons I think it was taught was because of what it does to a person inside. When you do in our community people lift you up—when you do! Not when you make speeches. You can't make speeches and get funding and have the black community lift you up. When they go somewhere and their girlfriend tells them that Rev. Bean paid our rent, when their cousin calls and says my girlfriend's boy got AIDS and Rev. Bean was down at the hospital, or the Minority AIDS Project came over and put their lights on when they were off—that's when our people respond. They've been abused so much they don't just respond because somebody puts pictures out in the community. The people have lifted me up—it was the people, not some publicity. It was the black community. It has nothing to do with power or me being hungry. The media calls you because you've done something. You're sitting in my office now because we've done something. KCET called because we're doing something. The *Sentinel* gave us that [points to award on the wall] because we're doing something—in the community. That [pointing to another] is from the National Council of Negro Women because Dorothy Hightman recognized that we're doing something. You get recognition from doing. Angry people want to get recognition from tearing down everybody else. I'm sorry—my church is filled with black lesbian and gay folk who are poor, who are fighting to maintain their sobriety. Some of them are kids who were hard core crack addicts. Come here one Sunday morning. Listen to their testimonies. They testify before I come out. You will hear the difference in their lives.

MAP gives out between \$4000 and \$8000 direct cash grants every 30 days to people that come through these

doors that need housing, food, clothing, phone bills paid. We go through everything. We see people who are substance abusers that come for money they say is for rent but then they buy crack. We have been through it. But that's why we're here. We understand our people. We understand the culture. I cannot be angry at the fact that when no one else would go, the media called on me to be on TV to round out an AIDS panel.

KCET did a national show that depicted a black man with AIDS who was a menace to society, who was tricking for \$5 to eat, who had a mother that was stealing his social security checks, and on and on. When that was over all of the AIDS agencies were sitting there looking at me. Who was it that it fell on? Rev. Carl Bean and his black community that was not responding to AIDS. I had to think quick, pray, anything to try to respond to this thing so it wasn't an embarrassment to my people. So I became the person that was targeted. I became the person that the media called. I was the one who went in the *Times* saying I was a homosexual and they put my picture in there. So I became the person. Nothing is stopping any of them from doing that. I'm the one who became the homosexual in Watts, in Inglewood, downtown, at the mayor's office—the black one—me. My picture was the one all over the place. I was the one all over the television. I was the one advocating and ranting and raving. All of them had that opportunity; it had nothing to do with media. Do you know how I felt at first? What might happen? Some angry person who felt I was doing something against "black maleness or manhood" who might take my head off because I was saying I was black and homosexual? Do you know how many nights I had to deal with that? Not knowing what was going to happen when I knocked on the door wherever I was going.

They're welcome. They're welcome. Come on. By far there ain't enough. They can come and join me.

*I understand that you returned \$70,000 in grant money to the state instead of sending it where it should have gone, the Watts Health Foundation. True?*

We had a subcontract with the Watts Health Foundation that was supposed to have been carried out in a specific way. There was a person here at the time who was dealing with a substance abuse problem who had written that proposal. That proposal was never carried out. Now I know how they watch people like us, of color. They want to find one penny spent improperly so they can close our programs down and make headlines. My board makes decisions, not Rev. Bean. It doesn't stop with Rev. Bean. It goes to the Minority AIDS Project board.

We had a meeting in my office about that money. It was very close to the time for that contract to be completed. It was said in the meeting that it was impossible to complete that program in the time allotted. There were five people in my office, and the executive director of the Watts Foundation and all of us agreed it was an impossible project. I called the state to tell them it was impossible. Then a letter was written to the state saying that someone's salary at Watts had been charged against that money, and that the money was needed to put the salary back. Now that was not what was said in my office. So I knew then that the best way for me to protect MAP was to give the money to those two parties and let them make the decisions. My board agreed and said send the money back. Don't touch it.

*There seems to be a lot of turnover at MAP, and a lot of apparently highly qualified people have left such as Dr. Germán Maisonet. Why is that?*

What I've learned in doing this kind of work is that whatever people come and offer, I have to accept whatever



that is and accept however they do it. However, I cannot allow it to be something that will hurt what I'm trying to do or what the board is trying to do or the work of this ministry. If someone says to me I'm going to start an AA group and it becomes a source of healing for the community I serve, and I start hearing from the people that the person didn't show up or they aren't getting feedback, then I must try to find someone who will come and will be consistent and then I must try to find money so it will be an ongoing thing. People who have been damaged a lot, it certainly does not help them to be put on a yo-yo.

*Any ulterior motives of your own?*

No! To do what? To stay in the same apartment for 12 years? I'm still in it.

*Perhaps to become mayor.*

Mayor? Mayor of the city? [laughs] I wouldn't trade places with Tom Bradley for no salary in the world. You know, to sit in an office everyday of my life—no, that's not me.

*Some blacks are concerned about the involvement of Black and White Men Together in their affairs. Aren't a lot of MAP's volunteers members of BWMT?*

There's no way I can teach love thy neighbor as thyself and practice what has hurt me and my people. There's no way I can become a person who does to others, because of a difference, what's been done to us and say I want the world to be a better place. I'm in total agreement with Dr. King there. Those people who opposed him because he wanted to bring people together. Same with Gandhi and Jesus Christ himself. Anyone who teaches love for everybody, that teaches that we all must be one and interconnected, the world begins to fight [him]. When you speak of unconditional love, it's too much for a lot of people.

How can I dislike you for your choice of organization? BWMT comes to me and says we want to raise money to help keep the doors of MAP open. And I'm supposed to say, because you're in a club that's black and white men mixed you can't bring me money to help these black folk over here with AIDS?

There's no black organization bringing us canned goods. That's what amazes me; they [not BWMT] weren't even organized, they weren't bringing anything. Where were they? Until they saw my picture in the paper they weren't doing anything anywhere.

We started the church, then I started MAP as its founder, and there was a black gay presence in the community that became public. All of these people came to me to get to know us. My people who started the church and MAP are still here. Isn't that funny? The founders of Unity Fellowship Church are all still here. They're all black lesbian and gay. The founders of Minority AIDS Project are all still here. They're all black lesbian and gay. Those who came through for a different reason—many are gone.

*Are you a member of BWMT?*

No. But I'd have no problem being one.

*You participated in the recent black gay and lesbian national conference held here in L.A. How do you respond to accusations by some that the conference was not, in fact, organized and promoted in the best interests of the black community?*

The conference planning committee met here for almost the whole year leading up to the conference. Church members and MAP members helped with the conference. They were organizers, ushers, guards, etc. No, it wasn't perfect, but you create better by sitting down, finding out what the problems are, listening to each other, and coming up with something better. If someone steps out on the line it's easy to take shots at him. In the 60s we would meet in a room,

get it together, and come out a force of one. Now it's divide and conquer and usually it doesn't take anyone else to divide us—we do it ourselves. Again, it's envy, jealousy. It doesn't have to be. Ain't none of us got nothin' yet. Why would you fight a program in your community with a few hundred thousand dollars instead of a program across town with 10 or 11 million?

*How much input did blacks have in the planning of the conference?*

Phill Wilson is black. He is not white.

*Now isn't he a West Hollywood boy, so to speak? We don't see or hear of him coming to black gay bars or working within the community.*

Blacks packed his conference.

*Even blacks from L.A., where the conference was supposedly downplayed?*

They packed the room. Even the dissenters were there. People need to wake up.

*Tell me about Dignity House.*

You know how that came about? One Sunday after I had finished preaching I went down to County to see a man at the request of a social worker. I was about to leave after trying to show him we loved him and there was a place. He said, "Rev. Bean, I have Pneumocystis pneumonia. They tell me Wednesday I'm leaving the hospital. Where do I go? Now you told me 'bout God, you told me 'bout love, and I'm glad you came. But Wednesday, they say I can leave. Where am I going? For two years I been livin' on the streets and in the missions. I used to be able to fight to be one of those to make it in before the cutoff came or before the soup ran out. I've had to sleep on thin pieces of cardboard between me and the concrete and cover up with newspaper. Now I don't have an immune system. Where will I go? I can't sleep on cardboard no more. I'm cold now while we talking."

I couldn't sleep for three days. I came to the office and I sat and prayed and prayed and thought and thought, trying to do the business of the day, but his face wouldn't leave me. I wrote "Dignity House" on a little sticker like this and stuck it to the wall. I discussed it with everybody that came into the office. I would say that we need a place that will give our black brothers and sisters that are gay, homeless, and with AIDS, a sense of dignity and pride even in their sickness. I shared it with the congregation and prayed and prayed until Dignity House became a reality.

We've been running Dignity House for three years now for homeless people with AIDS. The benefit that Dionne Warwick helped us with last year was to help us continue to be able to do this kind of work.

*What does Dignity House consist of?*

It's a nice house in the inner city with three bedrooms, living and dining rooms and kitchen, big backyard, laundry, pretty much everything.

*The neighborhood doesn't mind?*

Nothing was formally announced, but I'm sure they know from seeing me go in and out. And another thing, the media have wanted to cover Dignity House forever, but we've refused because if something goes wrong we'd have six or eight AIDS patients who are living well and feeling some dignity that would be on the streets. They wouldn't care because they'd be back on the news tomorrow, but the AIDS patients would be on the streets.

*Are you planning another gospel concert to help raise funds like the one last year?*

Yes, and Dionne Warwick will headline again. It will be called Coming Home for Friends II.



*How much did you raise last year?*

We cleared close to \$100,000. We were two hours over last year. I had to give the Shrine \$12,000 of what we made for overtime. We could have made much more. In fact, some of the entertainers said I should have charged more, but we wanted to keep the concert accessible to as many as possible. Our tickets were \$25, then \$15, then \$10—that was the bulk of the house. Had the entertainers not come to our rescue, I don't think we'd be here now. When we started we sometimes gave out \$500 in a month, and had no idea how we could sustain that. Now, there are months when we give out \$8,000. And none of that comes from the government. That's all donations, unrestricted funds from the general populace.

*It must have been quite an organizational and networking feat to stage a major show like that at the Shrine.*

The thing that equipped me was the fact that I had been in gospel music all my life, had been traveling and singing and performing, had done Broadway shows, was used to press conferences, had been in the ministry and had a love for my people since the early marches on Washington.

What also helped was when Motown Records came to me in 1977 to record a song called "I Was Born This Way." The lyrics were "I'm happy, I'm carefree, I'm gay and I was born this way." The record was released on the Motown label on a 12-inch disk and it went to number 14 on *Billboard's* disco charts. They called in the best to do it: the Sweet Inspirations did the background and they called upon Norman Harris and MFSB in Philadelphia to do the track. I did a lot of interviewing; talk about being pushed out of the closet—that record did it for me. But when it came to me I didn't know what it was. I was working in the lamp department at May Company on Wilshire when

Motown called. I hung up on them four times, thinking it was some idiot playing a trick. They said they'd send someone over with the lyric to prove it was them, and they did. They had heard my voice on a gospel album I had done on ABC Records called "Carl Bean and Universal Love." I realized that the record was something bigger than me, that something was going to happen or needed to happen and I would be the voice that would make it happen.

*Why no follow-up records?*

I was an outwardly gay artist, and none of us knew what to do with me next. After that record they said they really liked my voice and had some stuff in the can on David Ruffin they wanted me to cut. I said to myself I have just talked to the world press, and now you want me to sing "I Love You So." I said no, give me my release. It wasn't Motown's fault. The time was such that they didn't really know what to do after the record hit. What would you follow it with? Was the world ready for lyrics like "John and I love each other?" No one knew what to do. How do you build an openly gay recording artist's career?

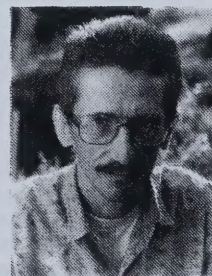
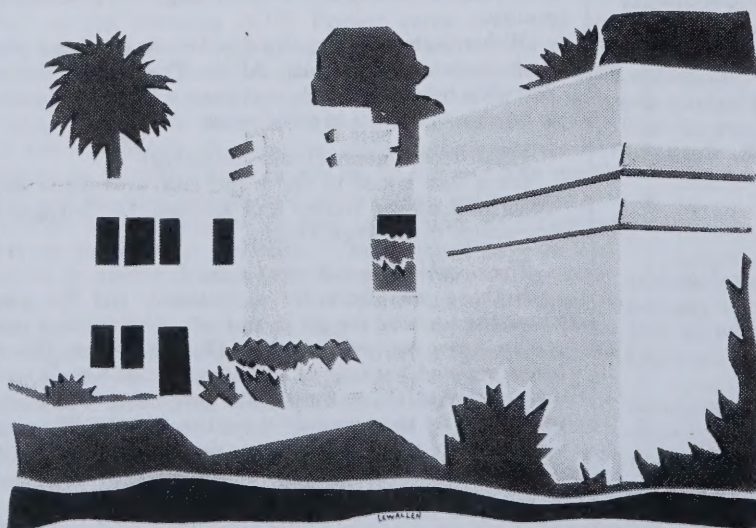
*Did you get the release?*

Yes.

*Didn't Motown have another openly gay artist? Valentino, I believe?*

Yes. Valentino had done the same song before I did it, but he did it real Broadwayish. It didn't go. I did the Backlot. It was raining cats and dogs but they packed it. The show was so successful they asked us back the next night. At the time I was offered the part of the Lion in the *Wiz* if I would return to New York, and I was also asked to do the lead in *Your Arms Too Short to Box With God*. I said no. I'm out here now and I've got to see what life holds in store

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for me.

*Any regrets in turning down what might have been a lucrative career in pop music?*

None at all. To my critics who think that's what I want, I say, "Honey, I had that all in my hand. I walked away from it. People were dying." That's my talent naturally, and I was already on Broadway, I wasn't trying out for parts. I was being offered parts across country. All I had to do was fly over there and go up on stage and do it.

Carl Bean has always been Rev. Carl Bean. I don't have any problems. I will sing and tell my story. People are talking to me now about writing a book on what it's like to be black and gay. So now as I travel I record notes into a pocket tape recorder. I think I might like to do a one-man show about my life and being black and gay.

*How does your childhood and upbringing come to bear on your sexuality and life in the ministry?*

My home is Baltimore, Maryland. I was born in the 40s, raised in a time and place where the black community was very separate from the rest of society. The word "ghetto" could be said of it, but "slums" could not. There were poor people on the block, but in those days it never occurred to any of us to think that our house looked good but yours was falling apart. There was a feeling of family that was natural and that you were taught to be a part of. I can remember the black teacher on the block, the black postman, and the black garbage collector. But there was no further division along those lines. Everyone went to church together, and everyone ran up a bill, as it were, at the corner grocery store. Everyone was "Mr. Johnson" or "Miss Smith," "Yes, ma'am," "No, sir." And now that I look back on that kind of respect, I'm sure it all provided the foundation for what my life is today.

My grandmother always gave me a sense of pride and prepared me for the things I would see in the world. I remember the first time I was sent to Virginia, which is where the family is from, and she explained to me why after a certain point I would have to change seats and ride in the back of the bus.

*So homosexuality was accepted back then?*

It was a part of the community. Of course, at that time I didn't know "gay" or anything, but I knew you could be

that way in the community. So I came up with the sense that it was a part of us—it wasn't separate. That was in me. There were women who were real masculine, and everybody knew who they were, their names, and their mommies and daddies. So that base was there for me.

*Along with your perception of gay life, your perception of race must play an important role in the work you are doing now. What were race relations like while you were growing up?*

I remember my mother working for people in the white community. Every evening my Dad and I would pick her up. I would have to go into the house to get Mom while Dad waited in the car. I would go in the house and down the steps to their basement, and I would see all these shirts and sheets that Mom had starched and ironed and folded up. I remember her smiling, as tired as she must have been. The lady's name was Miss Carol. She would respect me as a child; her kids would call me Carl and I would call them by their names. But it was clear that Dad didn't come in that house. Mom would come out of the house with me and ride home with us. I guess that was the beginning of my recognizing that difference; that there was this difference and that there were certain rules you played by. I always remember my Dad's face. He would joke until we got there, but then become very solemn. If they said something to him he would speak back, if they said nothing, he'd say nothing. I was the one with *carte blanche* to go in and pick up Mom, not knowing really then what was going on—why I could come in and Dad couldn't.

In the early 50s, we were the first students used to integrate the schools there. We were told ahead of time that we had something to do for our people, that we had to get on busses and go to another school, that we were going to be called names, that people would spit on us and throw things at us, but that we had to maintain a certain conduct to get this job done. I remember the time they took to explain how important it was to get that job done, and what it would do for us as a people, how it would change things for us. This was our first experience with white culture. We were in the seventh grade then. We were hesitant and uncertain, and none of us were really fighters. On the first day, some outsiders came up to the school on motorcycles while we were on the playground at lunchtime. They had snow chains, and they began whipping us with them. We started running toward home and, fortunately, a white man who owned a car dealership instantly perceived what was happening. He allowed us in his garage and he pulled the door down. To this day I don't know how it happened, but when he raised the door a few minutes later, we saw hordes of black kids from several area high schools coming to save us. They were chanting. I have no idea how they knew there was trouble. They beat those white kids unmercifully! It was terrible. That was the beginning of a greater awareness of what black/white was all about.

That was what happened with me in childhood, but then the *difference* cropped up. I was the kid who went to Virginia Union every summer to represent the black Baptist church of Baltimore; I was the kid who could answer your questions about the Bible; I could also sing, I got good grades in school, but then the *difference*. I found out I was different.

*The difference is that you were gay?*

Yes. Actually, I suppose I knew even in kindergarten. I was attracted to men then, and I knew it. I somehow knew not to talk to anyone about it. But I knew it was there. I remember every crush on every boy from first grade through high school. I can remember every neighborhood boy I had a crush on, someone's Dad, my earliest sexual



AJB

"Henry! It's time to get the new mail boy off your mind and get back to work."



experiences. I never, ever was attracted to females, I've never slept with one, I've never masqueraded, never took a girl to a dance, or any of that—ever. It wasn't bravery or anything like that; I was just being who I was. I just didn't know how to be anyone else.

I remember my first formal acquaintance with homosexuality. I got a book from the library once about beatniks in Greenwich Village. The book had a section about homosexuals. One page showed a couple together, and I *knew* it was me. I would take my dictionary and look up "homosexual." Here I was in my bed, head under the cover, looking up these words! That was validating me! I would look up a word, look back at the book, look at a picture, and back and forth. I did that almost daily for months!

*Did you mess around in those years?*

Oh, yes. I became sexual at probably age 8. I was in puppy love with several kids at school.

*And there were kids that would reciprocate?*

Oh, definitely. When we would do lights out for a movie, I remember the boys just running to sit next to me! We would combine two classes for the movies, which meant we had to sit two at a desk. When they put those lights out the boys would come running. And I'm not going to tell the rest—it shouldn't be in print [laughs].

*And I won't ask.*

But I remember that closeness and that touching. We were so young, too, and didn't know what was really happening. The guys knew I was different and that they could be sexual with me. Whatever it was they were feeling, whether it was with a girl or with me, they just wanted to feel it. That's all that really was. I think some of them felt emotional feelings for me because I was different. Some of them would wind up at my house, always wanting to be with me or around me. I remember falling in love with certain boys just like the girls did. I can still name them. At that age they want to be with you, too, and don't want other boys around you when they come over.

*What was it like when your Mom found out?*

I think she probably always knew. I think everyone always knew. The problem was how to cope with it. At one point it became miserable in my home, and I became belligerent. My family got into that "changing" me stuff. I was very close to my friends, and we were all gay. We went to school together, we walked together. I remember these capes that were out at the time. We all bought capes and tams and wore them together. We used to carry our books like the girls did. We were trying to act out this difference. But we really didn't know what to do. We learned "Miss Thing," and "girl," and snapped fingers. It was "Miss this," and "Miss that," and "girlfriend," and "sister." That was a real part of our lives. There were drag queens with us sometimes. One group of guys were cousins, and all three of them at ages 12 and 13 were already fully wearing women's clothing. They were already tricking in the red light district. We knew we could make money down there from these men that had offices and suites.

*Let's move on to the beginnings of your gospel singing career and your arrival in L.A.*

I left home at the ripe age of 16. My interest in gospel singing took me to New York. I remember meeting everyone in the church circuit and being a part of Harlem in the 60s. I did the Apollo Theater, Georgetown, Broadway, and much later, a gay liberation record for Motown.

After a few years in New York, I moved to Chicago, following my gospel dreams to the hub of black culture. I had to know that I could do it in Chicago. I longed to be with Thomas Dorsey, Sally Martin, Mahalia Jackson, Roberta Martin Singers, and the many others that were there. I

joined the Gospel Chimes and the Gospel Wonders. With the Wonders we did a song called "Long As I Got Jesus," which was a big hit. We were all very young. I joined the Bradford Singers, did a show with them called *Black Nativity* written by Langston Hughes; Vonette Carroll was the announcer. That took my life into something else.

I came to L.A. in 1972 after leaving *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope* on Broadway.

*And since coming here, would you say that your life has changed in a major way?*

Definitely. I had a calling, I guess, first to start a gay-oriented church and then to help with AIDS.

*If you had a blank check, what would most like to do?*

A few things. First, I would develop rehab in a big way. So many blacks, Latinos, lesbians, gays, and straight people have opted to cook their brains on drugs and give up the fight. The last administration killed basically every rehab program in the country, and then turned around and said "just say no." You can't just say "no." There has to be a program to help you get free of the addiction and then help you become a productive citizen again. I'd also set up an Institute of Love—a place where people can come and deal with all kinds of problems, including substance abuse, child abuse, lesbian and gay issues, teenage pregnancy, battered women, etc. It would be a place where they can come at no cost to free themselves of their problems. There would be day care for AIDS patients.

*Looking at all your accomplishments, of which are you the most proud?*

Learning to love.

*But you've always known how to do that, haven't you?*

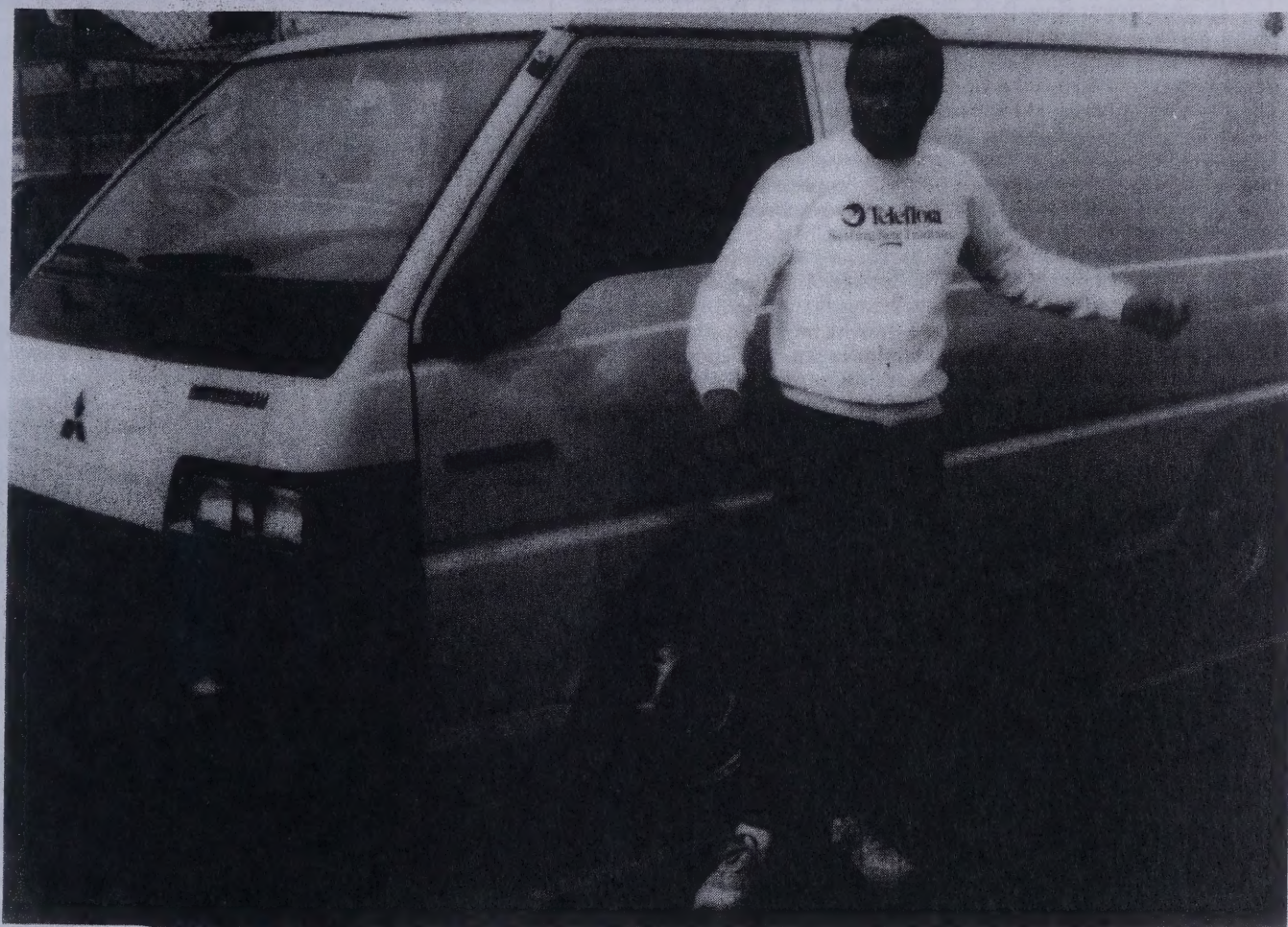
It's an ongoing process. We make so many mistakes in learning to love. We say things we shouldn't say. We break a heart. We bring a tear. We realize a minute later we could have said it better. We could have done it nicer. It's an ongoing process. I think we're all working to become the true embodiment of love—that our essence will become love. I think that's what Martin was working for, what Gandhi was working for, what Mother Theresa is working for, what the many whose names we don't know are working for. It's certainly what I'm working for.



*"There goes the neighborhood."*



# BLK COMMUNITY NEWS



Jack Wheaten in front of his van.

## Wheaten Killed; Man Sought for Questioning

By Jarvis D. Moore  
BLK Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—Jack Wheaten, 37, was found dead June 6 in his apartment near Fairfax and Pico Boulevards. He had been killed sometime over the weekend of June 2-4, and there were no signs of forced entry. Although Wheaten's van is missing, the motive for his killing has not been established.

Wheaten was last seen in the company of a transient who uses the name Greg Bufano, but whose true identity and whereabouts are unknown. Bufano is described as a male, white, 5'11", 185 pounds, blond hair, hazel eyes, 28 years old, and is being sought for questioning by Los Angeles Police.

The missing vehicle is a 1988 Mitsubishi minivan bearing California license 3L62044 and is cream in color. It is presumed stolen by the perpetrator.

Wheaten, who was black and gay, lived alone. He was socially active and well-known in the Los Angeles black gay community.

When Wheaten, who was known to be a responsible employee, had not called or reported for work at Tele-flora by

Tuesday, June 6, his fellow employees became concerned. One co-worker went to Wheaten's apartment, became suspicious, alerted the landlady, and with the help of a locksmith, gained entry to the apartment. He found Wheaten dead, nude, and amidst signs of a violent struggle. The co-worker called police.

Los Angeles Police Detective Roger Gilbert, one of the detectives handling the investigation, believes that this crime is definitely a homicide. "Multiple stab wounds were the cause of death, but I do not want to give out more details. We are still pursuing active leads," said Det. Gilbert. "There are some details about this violent crime that only the victim and perpetrator or perpetrators would know."

At the Westwood-based Tele-flora, Wheaten's co-workers were devastated by his murder. Although no one there would discuss Wheaten or the case with BLK, Det. Gilbert said that "Wheaten's co-workers were deeply touched and needed psychological counseling."

Wheaten was active in the Black Gay Men's Support Group, a bi-weekly rap meeting of eight to ten who meet at the Unity Fellowship Church on Jefferson Blvd.

"Most members of the group have taken this pretty hard,"



said Paul Davis, the group's leader. "We had just gotten to the point where barriers to trust were breaking down, and people were beginning to really talk and share things," lamented Davis.

Although Wheaten had been a charter member and active participant since the beginning of the group in October 1988, Davis noted that "Very few people knew everything about Jack, and all the pieces have come out after his death. He'd never lie to you, but he just would not tell you everything.... There were some tensions in his life because he lived in two worlds."

Like many gay men and lesbians, Wheaten wished to keep many aspects of his personal life discreet. In fact, practically all of Wheaten's straight friends, co-workers, and family did not know he was gay until his murder. Some found out through a report on KABC's evening news for June 6. According to one viewer of the broadcast, "a reporter alleged that Wheaten was a 'known homosexual' to his neighbors, and that they had seen men come to his apartment. His house and van were flashed onto the screen."

But if television reportage lacked grace, everyone contacted by BLK has remarked how conscientious, courteous and cooperative the investigating detectives have been. Apparently Wheaten's sexual orientation has not affected the priority level of the case.

Det. Gilbert dismissed the possibility of a serial killer, or a pattern to this type of death. "Only a small percentage of homicides are of this type," he said. But Gilbert went on to add that "evidence at the scene indicated that the murder was definitely related to his homosexual activities."

Gilbert said he has encountered no more obstacles in investigating this case than he usually encounters on any other unsolved murder case.

However, one of Wheaten's friends, who asked to remain anonymous, while agreeing that the police were courteous, went on to say that they "had to be educated about the black gay lifestyle." He revealed that the police did not immediately know that Wheaten was gay, but only learned it through interviews with Wheaten's friends. One detective expressed surprise in learning that Will Rogers Park in Watts, an area in which he had worked, was a black gay cruising area. Wheaten is said to have frequented the park.

One hypothesis suggested by some of Wheaten's acquaintances is that Wheaten was killed by "rough trade" he had picked up for a sexual encounter. In a telephone conversation with a close friend late Friday evening, Wheaten indicated that he might go out.

"He did cruise bookstores and parks, but Jack never discussed that in the rap sessions," said Paul Davis. Another friend concurred: "He did have a habit of picking up people, but he did it infrequently. He knew it was dangerous and he was very careful. Generally, he was not comfortable about discussing sex, so we seldom talked about this."

Wheaten, who was an only child, was born in Shreveport, Louisiana on August 18, 1951. He came to Los Angeles as a teenager and graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1970. Wheaten attended Los Angeles Valley College, and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts from Loyola-Marymount University.

Although Wheaten was buried in Louisiana, a memorial service was held at Angelus Funeral Home June 16 in Los Angeles. Attending the service were numerous family members and friends from the several segments of Wheaten's life.

Family members and Wheaten's non-gay friends were either unavailable for comment or refused to be interviewed.

The police are continuing to circulate flyers throughout the gay community in search of leads, particularly the whereabouts of Greg Bufano or Wheaten's van. Persons with information should contact Detectives Roger Gilbert, Ray Futami or Dan Andrews at 213-485-4033.



Greg Bufano

## Merton Provides Funds, BWMT Joins LIFE Lobby

LOS ANGELES—As the result of a \$1,000 donation by *Advocate* publisher Niles Merton, the Los Angeles chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT/LA) has received a one-year membership in LIFE, California's lesbian and gay lobbying coalition.

LIFE, which stands for Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality, promotes gay, lesbian and AIDS issues. Affiliating organizations and individuals must pay a \$1,000 yearly membership fee to obtain board representation. The coalition retains a lobbyist in Sacramento, Rand Martin, who lobbies officeholders under the direction of LIFE's board of directors. In so doing, LIFE plays a major role in setting the political agenda of California's lesbian/gay community.

"The only people who have access to [AIDS] healthcare now are white, gay men. That's got to change," said Merton, explaining why he agreed to sponsor BWMT/LA's membership. "I'm familiar with BWMT and those involved. I know they're capable of making their voice heard."

When Merton suggested that BWMT/LA should be represented on the lobby, LIFE co-chairman John Doran asked if he would underwrite the group's membership. He immediately agreed. Merton became familiar with BWMT/LA through former L.A. City Councilwoman Pat Russell, who had close ties to the group. Russell's son, David, is Merton's lover, and has also been financially generous to BWMT/LA in the past.

Guy Hubbard, BWMT/LA co-chair, has been selected as representative to the bi-partisan organization. John Williams, chair of BWMT/LA's consciousness raising committee, will serve as alternate.



## Women, Minorities Tally Rage Door Policy Bias

By Mark Haile  
BLK Staff Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD—Representatives of several Southern California lesbian and gay people of color organizations have formed a group effort to monitor and stop the alleged discriminatory practices of selectively demanding a \$5 cover charge or selectively demanding identification of minorities and women at Rage, a popular West Hollywood disco.

Members of Asian and Pacific Lesbians and Gays, Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, the Black lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and the Gay Asian Rap investigated and documented charges that women, blacks, Latinos and Asians, were being subjected to illegal door practices at Rage.

Participants in BWMT's Anti-Discrimination Unit logged patrons as they stood in line outside the door waiting to pay the cashier.

In one sample hour-long period, 18 black men, six Latino men, one Asian man, and four white men who entered Rage in the company of black friends were each charged the \$5 admission fee, while 47 white men were admitted for free during the same period. Perspective patrons had no way of knowing while in line that the cover charge was not being uniformly applied.

At about 7:30 p.m. the cover charge was requested of everyone in line, when, apparently, Rage management judged the club to be sufficiently crowded.

In another hour-long sample, observers in BWMT's Anti-Discrimination Unit watched as all 11 women who attempted to enter Rage were asked for identification, while only two men, one of whom was black, were carded.

On one Sunday evening, observers saw Rage employees systematically go through the bar, carding only the black men present in the club.

Exit interviews with patrons of color confirm that these abuses have been ongoing in an irregular fashion.

Phill Wilson, BLGLF chair, stated "We will put them [Rage management] on notice, and we will take action if we discover that these abuses continue."

A meeting is scheduled to take place with both members of the community and Rage management in attendance. But comments from Rage management were not available at press time other than a denial by a Rage employee who refused to give his full name.

Members of BWMT Anti-Discrimination Units in New York City and Washington, D.C. and the New York-based group, Girth and Mirth, have won several court cases over discriminatory practices in gay bars. Outcomes have included cash settlements in excess of \$45,000, and in one instance, the revocation of a bar's liquor license.

Lesbians and gay men of color who experience illegal discrimination in gay businesses are encouraged to call the BWMT response line at 213-664-4716.

## Launch Tanzania Drive

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP)—Tanzania, which has 4,000 confirmed cases of AIDS, plans to launch a campaign against the disease. Speaking recently at the opening of an exhibit sponsored by artists campaigning against the disease, Health Minister Aaron Chiudo said an estimated 400,000 Tanzanians are infected with the AIDS virus.

## Name Room for Black Gay AIDS Activist in N.Y.

NEW YORK—Friends and loved ones of Charles Angel came together at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center recently to dedicate a room in his memory. The room had been renovated by a consortium of four groups, as part of the Center's "adopt a room" program.

Located in the west wing, the room will now be known as The Charles Angel: People of Color Room. Its transformation into an attractive meeting space was undertaken by four groups: Salsa Soul Sisters, Gay Men of African Descent, Committee of Outraged Lesbians, and Men of All Colors Together/NY. Members of these groups put in many hours over the past several months to ready it for the dedication.

On the evening of the dedication ceremony, the Center's executive secretary and several boardmembers joined the late Charles Angel's mother and friends to celebrate his life.

Angel was born in 1952 and grew up in Brooklyn. He attended Columbia University and became an ordained minister in his early twenties. He was active in several gay and PWA groups including the Committee of Black Gay Men and the People With AIDS Coalition. He was a founding member of both Gay Men of African Descent and ACT-UP/New York. Angel appeared on radio and television speaking out about his life with AIDS, being one of the first African Americans to engage in public activism as a PWA.

## BLK Plans New Titles for Fall; Seeks Manuscripts

LOS ANGELES—The BLK Publishing Company announced plans to issue three new black gay quarterly publications, each separate from one another, and each with a very specific focus. Scheduled to begin later this year are *Kuumba*, a journal of non-erotic poetry for black lesbians and gay men; *Blackfire*, a black gay male erotic magazine; and *Black Lace*, a black lesbian erotic magazine.

*Kuumba* is a Swahili word meaning "creativity" and is one of the Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles) which govern African communities. Editor of the poetry journal will be Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, poet, playwright, journalist and short fiction writer from Los Angeles.

The new journal welcomes submissions of poetry on all subjects reflecting the experience of black gay men and lesbians.

Submissions for the inaugural edition of *Kuumba* to be issued in November 1989 should be sent to Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, Editor, *Kuumba*, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, and should include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Deadline for the November issue is August 15, 1989.

*Blackfire* is described by editor Revon Kyle Banneker as a "funky, trashy, disgusting new publication of black literature and art" that is "primarily interested in publishing seedy short stories mainly about the sexual adventures of horny black men."

*Black Lace*, which is still in development, will be edited by Alycee J. Lane. The women's publication will feature articles, fiction, erotic poetry, as well as drawings and photographs.

Submissions to *Blackfire* or *Black Lace* should be addressed to their respective editors at Box, 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. The company can be reached by telephone at 213-410-0808 or by fax at 213-410-9250.



# Long Beach AIDS Group Quizzes Board Member

By Cornell Makonnen  
BLK Contributor

LONG BEACH, Calif.—Ron Wolff, an Anglo AIDS activist who was ousted from the directorship of a Long Beach hospice program in January, has also left the board of directors of the predominantly black Minority AIDS Council (MAC) under pressure.

Wolff, who until January 19 was executive director of troubled Hospice/Los Angeles-Long Beach (HLL), was asked to resign by several of those present at a May 9 MAC meeting. Although at first he resisted, arguing that MAC needed his expertise to function, he agreed to leave when it became clear he lacked support among boardmembers.

Wolff had begun actively attending MAC's meetings as a boardmember at about the same time he was expelled from HLL by its board of directors last December. Thereafter, Ken Valdez and Al Espinoza, supporters of Wolff also previously affiliated with HLL, joined MAC's board. Wolff, backed by Valdez and Espinoza, immediately began playing an aggressive role in MAC meetings and plans.

MAC, formerly the Neighborhood Council on AIDS, grew out of a 1986 AIDS forum which emphasized the need for an AIDS-focused community based organization to address the needs of Long Beach's minorities. Its current board, not counting Wolff, Valdez and Espinoza, includes two Latinos, one Asian, two Anglos and 12 blacks.

Melvina Luke, an NAACP/Long Beach vice president, is MAC's board president and (unpaid) executive director. MAC provides education, referral and volunteer services. Its board has been working with Michael Pondorf and Nan Waltman of Los Angeles County Supervisor Deane Dana's office to obtain County funding for expanded services.

Johann Vessup, former MAC secretary, resigned from the board after Wolff and Luke successfully opposed his recommendation that the board consider affiliating with L.A.'s Minority AIDS Project (MAP). Wolff reminded boardmembers that Bean was involved in litigation with L.A. County, which could jeopardize MAC's hopes for county funding.

According to Vessup, Wolff argued that, "We should not associate ourselves with MAP because [executive director] Carl Bean's too controversial. I said to myself, 'this joker's going to call Rev. Bean controversial?'"

Bean was then a co-plaintiff, with NAACP/LA, in a class action suit to force county health officials to release AIDS-designated federal funds. Bean says that he himself had previously warned MAC of this possibility, "I told them about our lawsuit and that changing their name [to MAC] would cause others to misconstrue them as a MAP satellite."

Vessup says it was more than that. "Despite all of Carl [Bean]'s help, they said, 'That's a gay-run operation, and we're not.'" Luke denies any homophobia. "We're all people," says the devoutly Christian matron, "If the board wants to do that, that would be fine." She hopes to get Vessup to rejoin, acknowledging that since he left, MAC has no open gays. She says she meant to postpone, not veto Vessup's proposal.

Luke had invited Wolff to join MAC after being advised to integrate the board. She became suspicious of his involvement after receiving mail which documented his problems with HLL, of which she had been previously unaware, despite gay press coverage. Moreover, without board authorization, on March 9 Wolff had filed incorporation papers on behalf of MAC, falsely designating himself as the organization's vice president.

Wolff has been accused of numerous improprieties in his management of HLL's AIDS hospice in Long Beach, including abuse of AIDS patients under his care. On February 6, a permanent restraining order was issued banning Wolff from

HLL and ordering him to turn over the agency's bookkeeping records. Discrepancies in Wolff's personal and professional background have also since come to light.

Wolff was asked to come and explain his past relationship with HLL and anticipated relationship with MAC at the April 11 board meeting. "He wasn't altogether truthful with us," said Doris Topsy-Elvord, an MAC boardmember and Long Beach city commissioner, "It appears that as we got closer to getting funded, Ron Wolff wanted to become more prominently involved."

But the meeting was cancelled on the grounds of lack of a quorum when reporters from *The News* and *Frontiers* arrived and refused to leave the meeting. In fact, however, BLK has learned that during the executive session held prior to adjournment of that meeting, Wolff challenged Luke's parliamentary competence, then moved that the board appoint him assistant executive director. Luke refused to entertain the motion.

Again, at the May 9 meeting, there was no quorum. Espinoza had resigned, and it was discovered that Valdez had been elected to the board at a meeting where no quorum was present. Carol Anderson, a lesbian attorney who had been involved in the HLL dispute, was present, invited by Luke. Although Wolff objected, she was allowed to speak. She urged him to resign and start a new AIDS organization if he wished. One by one boardmembers pleaded for or demanded Wolff's resignation. He defended his actions on the grounds that in two years of existence MAC had only raised \$2,000 and needed to incorporate. He reminded Luke that she had recently been urged by Supervisor Dana's office to accept Wolff's expertise.

At that point Angus Love, publisher of the *Long Beach Times*, a black periodical, barged in, having been sitting outside for much of the meeting. He objected to the tone of Wolff's remarks to the softspoken Luke, and also demanded Wolff's resignation. Whereupon Wolff declared that he would resign in writing the next day. Although to date no resignation has been forthcoming, MAC boardmembers hope that the matter of the white activist who wanted to run a black AIDS agency is at an end.

## Racists Go on Trial for Slaying Black Gay Men

Two white supremacists are on trial for the execution-style murders of three men in 1987 at a North Carolina gay bookstore.

Robert Jackson and Douglas Sheets, former members of the White Patriot Party, were accused of entering the Shelby III Adult Bookstore, wearing masks, around midnight, January 17, 1987, and shooting the five men present in the head. Three died, two survived with severe injuries. The two alleged assailants were apprehended in Missouri in April of that year, and convicted of federal arms violations.

Their leader, Glenn Miller, had called for a "race war," prior to being arrested with Jackson and Sheets. He is now expected to testify against them in return for partial or complete immunity. One or two other men were involved in the multiple murders, but only Jackson and Sheets have been charged thus far.

Ku Klux Klan and Nazi leaders have announced plans to attend the trial and stage protest demonstrations. Most white supremacist groups are also anti-gay. Supposedly the murdered men, in their late teens and twenties, were killed to "avenge Yahweh [Jehovah] on homosexuals."



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We are students, professionals, just folks, sons, fathers, etc. Check it out.

The Black Gay Mens' Exchange will offer its initial evening of celebration and conversation beginning Friday, August 4, 1989, 9:00 p.m.

For information on the location call 213-753-2313.

Ask for Alton. See ya soon my dear brothers.

## Thelma Frazier Will Leave State AIDS Post

LOS ANGELES—"I'm tired. I want out," were the words used by Thelma Frazier, director of the state Office of AIDS (OoA) in announcing that she has requested transfer out of her department at a packed meeting of the Black Los Angeles AIDS Commission, held April 26.

Citing ten hour days and constant pressure to do more than is possible with the limited resources available, Frazier stated that she hopes to have left her position by the end of the year. "Use me now, while I'm here," she offered.

Frazier has been heavily criticized by African American and other AIDS service providers for poor and arbitrary administration of the department which has responsibility for directing the state's efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic.

Yet she was calm and direct in responding to the many questions directed to her at the meeting, held at the Brotherhood Crusade in South Central Los Angeles.

She has been defended by black legislators and others who contend that, although a Republican, as an African American woman Frazier was assigned OoA by a conservative administration which neither wanted her to succeed nor cared if she failed.

She took full, personal responsibility for the inadvertent defunding in mid-March of most of the state's minority community based organizations (CBOs), previously contracted to provide culture-sensitive AIDS services [BLK, April 1989]. Several of those agencies were re-funded for the 1989/90 fiscal year after protests from black and Latino politicians.

Funding decisions were made by staff grant evaluators, some of whom are black, and verbal notification to the agencies was given without Frazier's review of the decisions, she said.

Most minority contractors were defunded and most black CBO applicants were rejected because, Frazier explained, OoA's evaluators found the agencies' past performance and/or written proposals to be sub-standard.

Frazier was able to restore funding to some past contractors on the grounds that they served target populations which were inadequately served by Anglo agencies. She now reviews each proposal personally, and urges CBOs to call her directly when something seems amiss.

"Minorities must learn to focus on 'numbers,'" she admonished, "and stop exaggerating what you can do. You cannot possibly service every person-at-risk for AIDS in South Central on a \$50,000 grant, so don't tell us you will."

Frazier is now reviewing several millions of dollars worth of appeals from her department's decisions, for most of which, she warned, there is no additional funding, regardless of the merit of their appeals.

Although it is her general policy to automatically re-fund new programs because, she said, "it takes a year to get going," second-year applicants must meet OoA standards of performance and grant proposals. In order to fund new projects, especially minority CBOs, old programs must receive cuts in their renewal grants, including established minority agencies and successful or necessary programs: no exceptions.

Frazier stressed that she works for Governor Deukmejian, is responsible to his Administration, and cannot be expected to be a public advocate for black agencies or issues.

"You have to be there arguing your case yourselves. I cannot ask a [legislative] committee to grant OoA more money if the Governor's budget calls for less," she repeated several times, "He signs my paycheck."



## Hospital Gives Minority Patients Useless Drug

BRONX, N.Y. (VV)—Despite doubts about the efficacy—and safety—of kua-lou, the unpurified, dried Chinese cucumber root that some are touting as an effective treatment for AIDS, Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx is giving the drug to patients with infected with HIV. Lincoln is a New York municipal hospital with a mostly minority clientele.

Sheila Mason, an acupuncturist in the hospital's addiction treatment center, reports that a few dozen patients enrolled there are getting one teaspoon of the dried, ground root, dissolved in a glass of water, twice a day.

Trichosanthin, the active ingredient of kua-lou, officially known as GLQ223 and colloquially known as Compound Q, almost certainly breaks down once the root has been dried, so the treatment is probably useless. Also, the unpurified root may contain lectin, a toxic coagulant that has been reported in Chinese medical literature to cause heart attacks and strokes.

When asked about the probable uselessness and possible dangers of the treatment, Mason replied: "We've been using other herbs for quite some time and haven't seen any problems. We've only just begun with the cucumber, so it is too early to say whether any benefits will be seen. The reports about toxicity have been blown out of proportion. I have taken some myself." There are many anecdotal accounts of kua-lou derivatives being used without danger, but experts caution that AIDS patients may have allergic reactions to drugs tolerated by others.

A spokeswoman for the hospital would offer no further comment except: "We cannot guarantee that the information Mason told you is accurate. Hospital employees are not authorized to speak to the press."

## L.A. Gay Film Festival Includes Black Works

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles International Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival will take place July 11-15 at the Directors Guild of America Theater. Among the works to be screened that have racial angles are *Night Visions*, *Out on Tuesday*, *Infidel*, *Something Fierce* and *Wonderland*. For more information, call 213-665-0622.

## Slate First 'Gold Coast' Model Contest at Catch

LOS ANGELES—The first annual Mr. Gold Coast Modeling Competition, in which contestants vie for prizes and cash ranging from \$250 to \$1000, will take place at the Catch One July 9. Musical entertainment will be provided by *Dream-girls* alumna Loretta Devine, Kenneth Jones, B.J. Crosby and Tony Warren.

The competition, which includes swimwear, sportswear and formal attire categories, will be judged by Stanley Bennett Clay, Sloan Robinson, Scherrie Payne, Harold Sylvester and Tina Moore.

"This is unlike anything that has been done before as far as I know," said producer and creator Mark Barthé. "Guests will be pleasantly surprised at the exceptional concept of our event. Our ultimate goal is to establish scholarships for those individuals who aspire to careers in the modeling industry."

## Project Slates 'Coming Home for Friends II'

LOS ANGELES—The Minority AIDS Project (MAP) has designated July 2-8, 1989 as "Coming Home for Friends Week" to "focus attention on the disproportionately high number of AIDS cases in the ethnic minority communities of Los Angeles." It will also serve as a fundraiser for MAP, which currently has a caseload that is 60 percent Hispanic and 40 percent black.

A number of activities, including a food drive, are scheduled. The week will kick-off July 2 with a birthday celebration for MAP's founder and executive director, Rev. Carl Bean. His 45th birthday will be honored with a reception, from 3-6 p.m., at the Catch One Disco. Tickets are \$10. Individual sponsorships \$45.

The week will culminate July 8 with "Coming Home for Friends II," a gospel concert at the Shine Auditorium. Like last year's sold-out event, this year's concert is being organized with the help of Dionne Warwick. Last year's show included Patti Labelle, Natalie Cole, Thelma Houston and a 200-member choir. A similar guest lineup is expected this year.

Teresa Garay, vice president of the MAP Board of Directors, is the campaign's chair.

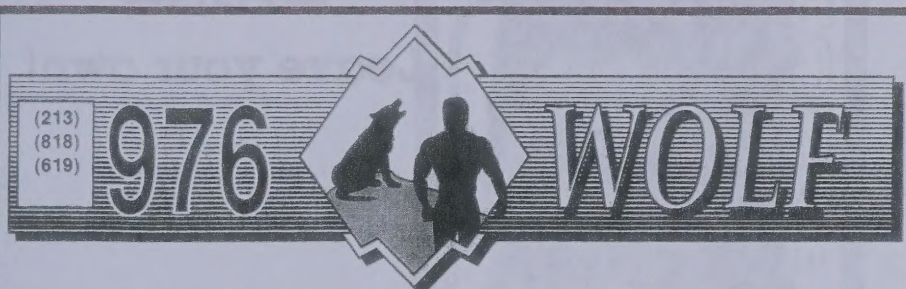


South African Alfred Machela, an AIDS educator employed by the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Whittingham, chaired a panel entitled "Erotica, Safer Sex and Behavior Change" at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS held in Montreal June 4-7. Machela, who works exclusively in the nation's black townships, also presented a pre-conference report on AIDS among the black population.



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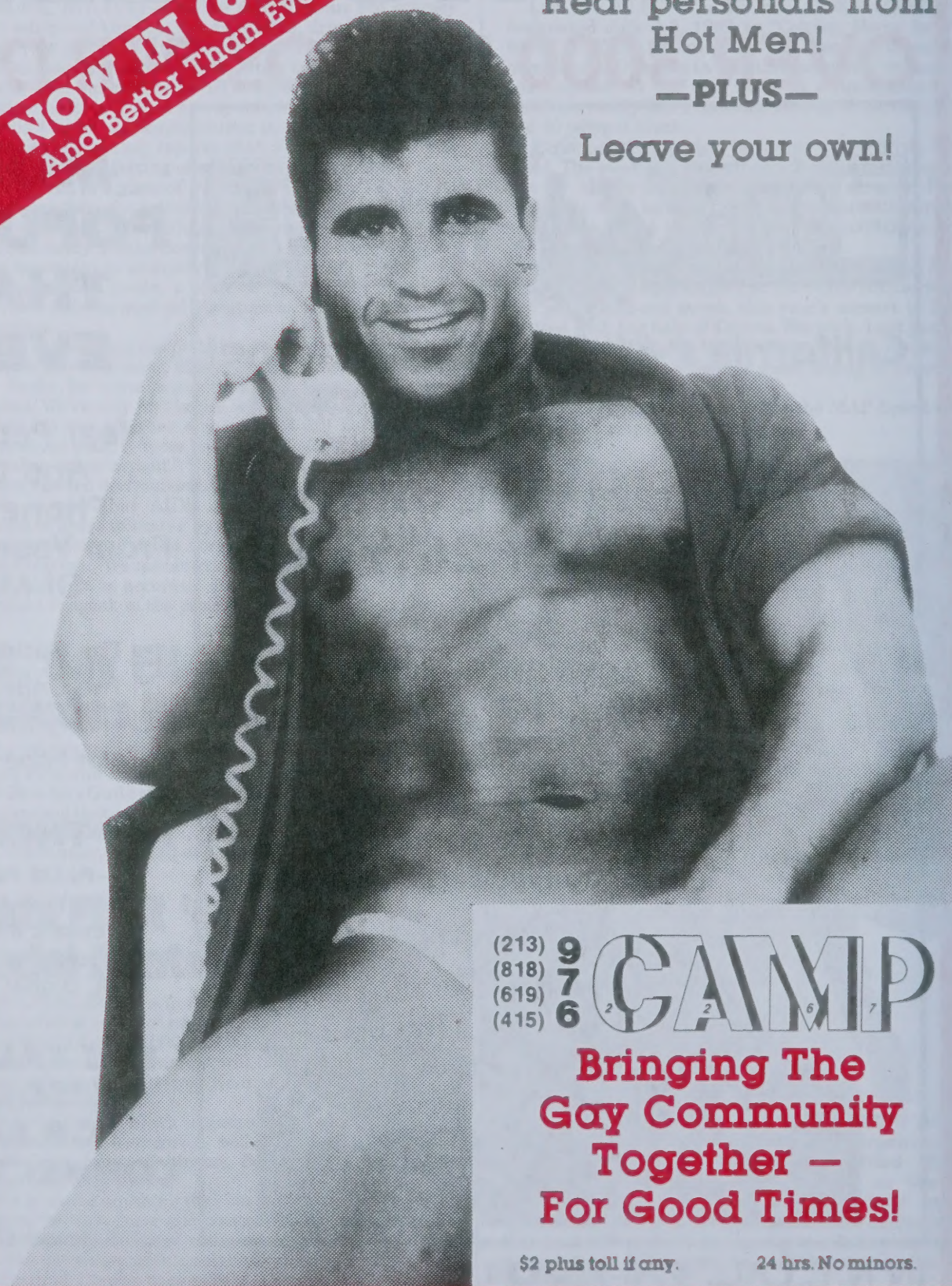


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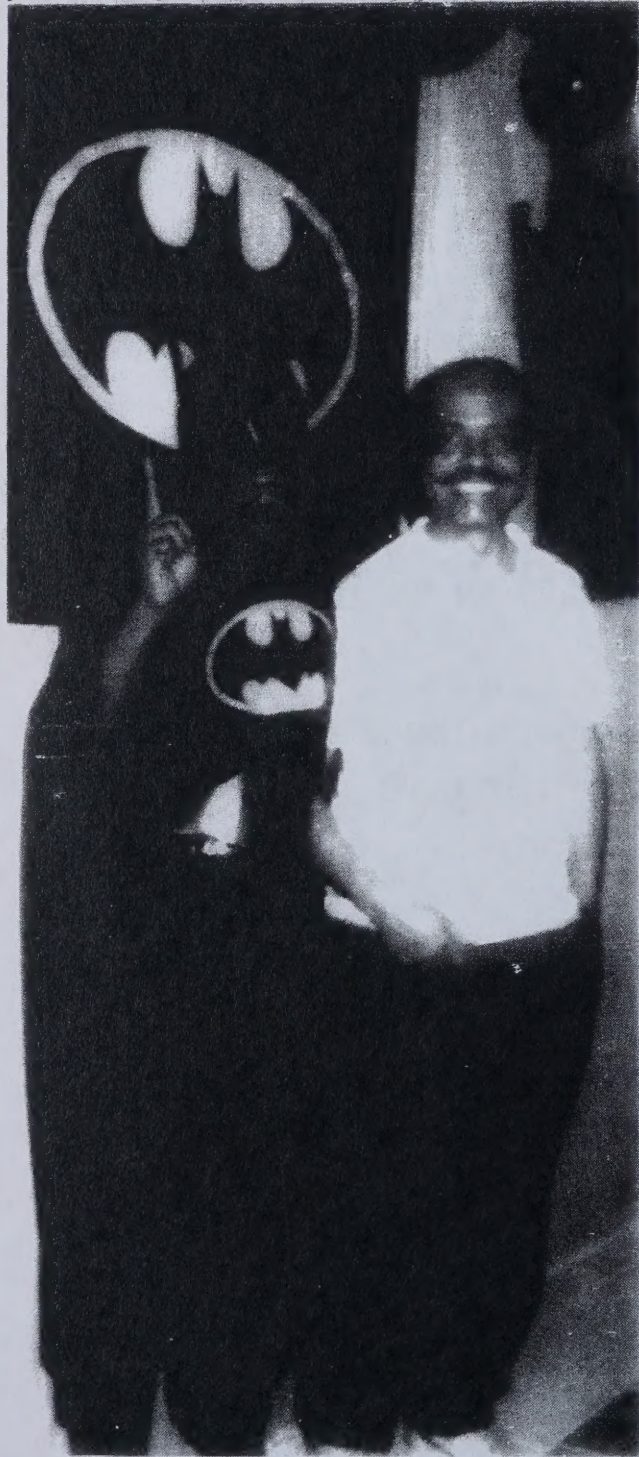
# **WE NEVER CLOSE**



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

ARSENIO HALL ON CELEBRATING GAY PRIDE MONTH IN JUNE: "I don't understand you homophobics. You've got your wife and your kids in the car and you run into the Gay



Horizon manager Bruce Johnson (left) with Horizon owner Louis Offlee.



Spike Lee

Pride Parade, and you start rolling up your windows. What do you think they're going to do?" Then Arsenio strutted up to the camera as if it were a car window, gave three of the queenliest *snaps* ever seen on TV, and said it loud, "Gay Pride, Gay Pride, Gay Pride! Thanks, Arsenio, America needed that... But according to *The Black American's* Michael St. John, Arsenio's best buddy, **Eddie Murphy**, has gotten over the need for his favorite sidekick, "At last, Murphy realizes that Hall was only using him to boost his own career... When Eddie Murphy suggested in very graphic terms that he should get 'real'—Hall, I'm told, was furious. From that moment on, the Murphy and Hall friendship began to thin out." 'Bout time too, 'cuz Arsenio's clearly comfortable with his manhood, while Murphy apparently needs to put others down—gays specifically—to convince himself that what he holds in his hand when he takes a piss is real... Holy **Horizon Club**, Batman! Is that club manager **Bruce Johnson** in bat cowl and cape, and owner **Louis Offlee** celebrating Hollywood's latest mad fad at their soon-to-be-expanded disco?... What is it we're doing wrong—or maybe right—when het homeboys start legitimizing themselves by claiming to be as "normal" as we are, as in this quote from a gangbanger in March's *Harper's Magazine*, "police officers can recognize police officers, athletes can recognize athletes, gay people can recognize gay people. Well, we can recognize each other. It's simple." Too simple... Caught **Al Jarreau** singing on **Johnny Carson** last week, where we were terrified that he was going to get caught and electrocuted by flinging his hands up onto a suspended stagelight. We were relieved when he finally sat down, but then while talking he nearly decapitated his host with his swinging wrists. Girlfriend, get a grip!... **Africa Oye!** at the **Pantages Theatre** in Hollywood, features African warriors doing a women's tribal dance in drag. You've got 'till July 9 to see if your cousins across the water transvestize like we do... What tall, fair and handsome southern esquire spent Gay Pride weekend in L.A. in a certain national gay activist's "booth"?... This week's homework: Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*. See it and we'll have a group discussion next month. See ya!



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gram program, constituent lobbying, house meeting program and other grassroots activities. Strong people skills, detail-oriented, willing to travel critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (E)

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Outreach Coordinator/South Central Los Angeles AIDS Hospice Foundation, AIDS, hospice, health experience, self-starter. Resume to AHF, 1800 N. Argyle Ave. #304, Los Angeles, CA 90028. (E)

Recovery Program Manager—gay/lesbian alcohol treatment facility seeks experienced and certified personnel. Prefer recovering, non-smoking gay or lesbian. Call or write for job description. \$19-24K negotiable. Van Ness Recovery House, 1919 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068. 213-463-4266. (8)

Regional Field Rep Sought. National lobby on lesbian/gay rights and AIDS issues seeks individual (to be based in Chicago or North Carolina) to build regional grassroots mail/pressure system. Coordinate house meeting project, seek local groups to canvass community events to expand mailgram program. People skills, detail-oriented and assertive self-starter critical. Send resume and cover letter to HRCF Field Division, Box 1723, Washington, DC 20013. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (E)

Secretary/Non-profit. Excellent typing, writing, phone and computer skills. Microsoft Word experience preferred. General office and development support. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. Send resume to: National Gay Rights Advocates, 8901 Melrose Ave. #200, W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (8)

Writer/researcher to help with the BLK column, "Word Up." Must be creative, interested in seeking out the unusual and willing to put your nose in where it doesn't belong. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (8)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Wanted: Individuals who need help in sorting out job problems and life's priorities. Edgewood Counseling. 818-966-1755. (8)

Positive Image—A nationwide communications network for men who are HIV+, have ARC or AIDS and those who want to communicate with them. Free information. SASE. PI/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (E)

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Step, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (E)

Ball Club—A nationwide communications network for men who have 'em and men who want 'em. Free information. SASE. BC/BLK, Box 1501, Pomona, CA 91769. (E)

## WANTED

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also accepted. Send with SASE to Revon Kyle Banneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

Women of color wanted for study of female sexuality. If you are lesbian or previously lesbian, but now with men, write Study, 1032 Irving St., Box 443, San Francisco, CA 94122. (E)

Nude Talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (9)

Black male nude models and men that like/desire to show their stuff. New! Black Stallion magazine needs your photos and stories, ads, etc. Also enter our "big dick" contest!!!! Send photos to: C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., L.A., CA 90028. (9)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Looking for a roommate for 3-bedroom house. \$350 month including utilities. Call 213-960-7748. (8)

## FOR SALE

Hot Black Men—The East Coast's best black men are in photographs by Weems-Works, now available in erotic photo sets or art prints. For sample and brochure, mail request stating age (over 21) and \$10 to David Weems, c/o Weems-Works, Box 22886, Balti-

more, MD 21203. (TF)

Gay male video available by mail order. Send \$1.00 for list to: W. Hall, Box 40496, Dept. BLK, Pasadena, CA 91114-7496. (9)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Shiatsu/acupressure by licensed legitimate professional. \$45 for 90 minutes. Out only. I'm 6', 180 lbs., muscular, blond. 213-655-2452. (8)

Australian Rick, blond, blue, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40, offers hot massage, hot spa, warm conversation. Only \$40 in. 213-259-8485. (8)

Every inch is brought alive and relaxed. \$50 and travel if outside Hollywood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (10)

Very attractive black body-builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (E)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

WM, 45, seeks dominant BM for good times. Doug. 604-263-3991 (Vancouver). (9)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

GWM, 55, slim, active life, gym-oriented, horseback riding, home life and more. Enjoy most sex. Seeking a younger dominant black man with similar tastes. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (11)

Am interested in meeting people who like meeting people. Am 47 years old. Like easy-going, yet serious people. Love nature. G.E., Box 2202, St. Augustine, FL 32085. (9)

Professional GWM seeks BM friend. Be adventurous! Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (9)

GWM, 40s, 5'7", 135 lbs., G.p. F.a/p wishes to meet masculine black and/or Hispanic men to mutually explore the possibilities from lust to love. Write. Skip, 22 Benson Ave., Pennsville, NJ 08070. (9)

Where have all the older GBM gone?



Sincere GWM seeks friend/lover. Box 502, Kenmore, Boston, MA 02215. (8)

Attractive GWM, deep blue eyes, beard and moustache, 5'9", seeks masculine GBM who knows himself. Honest, sincere and a good sense of humor. Write with photo. Bruce, Box 2291, Meriden, CT 06450. (8)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53 years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or active. 40 to 70. No drugs, fems, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ 08607-2223. (9)

### PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

Slim WM. 517-484-6505, Box 4222, E. Lansing, MI 48826. (10)

GWM, professional; 37, 6'2", 180 lbs. would like to meet/correspond with men of diverse cultural backgrounds. Romance, with affection, are important aspects that I would like to share. Write Rod, Box 8257, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. (10)

Attractive, hot, horny white male seeking attractive, hot black male with a smooth bubble butt to work safely. No drugs, feds or fems. Send photo. Box 7415, Dallas, TX 75209. (9)

Texas BM seeks friends and possibly more from across the country. No drugs or stereotypes. Am mature and professional and seek the same. A Jones, 5951 Melody Lane, Dallas, TX 75231. (9)

Attractive GWM, 27, seeks handsome, straight-appearing GBM. I'm tall dark and slim; professional; equally enjoy home and nightlife. Prefer tall and muscular, fun-loving guys. Box 486, Danville, IL 61834. (8)

Gay white mid-westerner, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., looking for black men for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (8)

WM, 50, seeks BM, any age, for sincere intimate relationship. No drugs. F/A/P. No G. Anxious to please you and be friends. Bill, Box 9645, Minneapolis, MN 55458. (8)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

### PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

Sexy GWM seeks cute GBM for serious relationship. 213-876-5871. (10)

Hot, handsome, in-shape GWM, 47, 5'10", 160 lbs., seeks handsome GBM for friendship and much more. Call James. 714-336-1305. (9)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim,

masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (8)

Creole male, good-looking, 30, 5'8", 145#, seeks Puerto Rican, brown Latin or brown men with big buns and nice build. Very hairy a plus. Should be versatile. Call Pat 818-892-5283. (9)

Send photo. BM seeking bottom with 9"+ with bottom of muscles. Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (8)

Black man wanted by slim, young, attractive GWM. 415-923-0278. (10)

Commitment: B/M G/P seeks a sincere G/A man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1 and nature. M.T., Box 712071, Los Angeles 90071. (11)

I'm strictly Gr/A GWM. Have Gr/P lover. Seeking Gr/A BM to be buddy, little brother or son to spend time with us in Waikiki. Important: thick-long-hard dick and gentle spirit. Not important: age, looks and quietness. Write: T.J., Box 75116, Honolulu, HI 96836. (8)

BiBM, 34, 6', 175, hot, safe, total top, masculine, good-looking, hung 10x6 seeks hot, masculine, bottom. Photo/phone to Box 29243, Los Angeles 90027. (9)

Very attractive GBM, 22, 6'0", 170 lbs., relationship material, new to area, seeks under 33, good-looking GM, any race, drug free, safe sex, educated. BLK Box #6. (10)

Horse-hung guys wanted by masculine, hot, blonde boy. I'm 22, tan, slim, smooth, and seek guys hung 10" or more and XXX thick for service and safe fun. Nude photo a must to MJ, 8033 Sunset #411, L.A. 90046. (9)

Fine white dude, healthy, hung seeks big black dick. Mutual. Safe. 213-281-6998. Be all man. (Uncut a plus.) (9)

Tight body and hot, white butt wants black dudes with a least 9x6 who know how to work ass. 213-656-5371. (10)

Do you desire the love of another brother? Tall, handsome, BM, 27, 210 lbs. is seeking a one-on-one with a handsome, versatile or strictly top BM of similar dimensions. Does kissing, holding hands and good "lovmaking" excite you? Then, only the affectionate yet masculine need respond. Serious replies only. Call 213-660-3862. (8)

Redhead, WM, 6'2", 175, 7" seeks safe sex w/SFV 7"+ masculine blk/M. BLK Box #5. (8)

Write attractive GWM: Boke, 2110 Ninth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. (10)

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160 lbs. quiet, pleasant natured, drug-free, wishes to meet black, married, educated with good body for regular meetings with utmost discretion and safety assured. You be 6'2", +30-40 yrs., big skin 7+, top, and be genuine, sincere and who wants

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*Gay and Lesbian Literature*

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Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912  
*BLK is mailed in an envelope.*



the best of both worlds. Photo appreciated and returned. No games. Only the serious need apply. BLK Box #4. (9)

Asian, 33, 5'9", seeks athletic 20-35 for safe relationship. 415-827-9973. (9)

2 GWM seek well-hung GBM for safe sex. Box 74030, L.A., CA 90004. (9)

Handsome, 60, top, British, seeks creative tongue. Hairy a plus. Pic/phone. Under 45. 8721 Santa Monica #155, L.A. 90069. (8)

GWM interested in getting together with a top GBM, well hung 9"+, to hump these tight buns at my place in the San Gabriel Valley for a good relationship and good safe sex. If interested, please call 818-369-6350. If no answer, please leave message. You won't be sorry. (8)

Butch, 33, good-looking, WM, 6'2", bottom, 210 lbs., BB, 46°C, 33"WM, 17"A, bubble butt, professional, new to Huntington Beach, seeks masculine black top only (30-40), dominant, kinky, professional. Call after 6 p.m. 714-969-1582. Mark. (8)

Blonde, blue-eyed GM, 45, 5'10", 175 pounds, good body, big arms, seeks black or Latin male, 20-40, thin or muscular, well-hung, top for safe sex. Call 213-285-3579. Leave message. (9)

Hot WM, 38, blond/blue, tan, moustache, wants to meet attractive BM, 20-40, intelligent, sense of humor important. Ph/p to: Box 8107, Glendale, CA 91224. (9)

Are you a dark GBM, under 29, who enjoys dancing, bodybuilding and is self-sufficient? If yes, and you like what follows, contact me at BLK Box #3. I am 6'1", 151 lbs., 22 years old, fair and in the process of muscular development. Seeking workout partner with interest in a 1-on-1 relationship. (9)

Stocky, white male, 49 (interests: music, travel, intimate moments) seeks black top buddy, 49-65, sensuous, intelligent, caring. 415-527-4460 or write Bill, Box 9369, Berkeley, CA 94709. (9)

Uncut, good-looking, African-born white European, muscular, clean-shaven, blue eyes, 29, 5'11", 175 seeks intelligent, masculine, tall, very muscular, hunky black bodybuilder for friendship. Box 69A27, L.A. 90069. (8)

In-shape older black gentleman with 8" wants to watch 2 young black bucks play in the dark. No participation necessary. Will pay expenses. Discretion essential. Warren, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233. (8)

Free massage for fit, smooth BM with big buns by WM, 36, professional, 6'0", 173 lbs. Mike 213-483-1517. (8)

Michael Rucker: Miss ya. Write! Box 18A255, L.A., CA 90018. (9)

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hol-

lywood, CA 91607. (8)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, California 90004. (11)

Good-looking black athlete, 31, top, masculine, muscular, moustache, seeks younger, masculine, muscular, randy white boys who are bottom, streetwise and live for safe, clean fun. Serious replies only. 619-291-7834. (8)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (8)

Straight black Puerto Rican stud, 42, hung 12x7 needs service from hung 10+. Only reply with photo and phone. Need 100% discretion. Leon Jackson, 8829 National Blvd., #75, Culver City, CA 90232. (7)

Handsome, articulate BM, 38, 6'2", 175 lbs., swimmer's build, Fr A/P, footage, desires discreet liason with attractive, mature BM, 40-55, fit, 6'5", or taller. Your photo gets mine. BLK Box #1. (7)

Looking for dark, hairy, tall, attractive, nice build, black or Latin-type, between 30-50 years. You must be professional, spiritual, sincere and romantic, and sexually be G/A or F/A/P (safe sex). Nipple play is nice. I am tall, slim, 6'2", 170, 36 years, blond, tan, green-eyed, health-oriented, nice build, G/P. Exchange of photos a must. Larce, 2407 Wilshire Blvd., Box 285, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (7)

GWM, mid-years bodybuilder stud (body of 25 weightlifter...better!) "great" pecs, wild in the sack (make you groan and burn!), masculine rugged-looking, hot, seeks GBM, bodybuilder or surf body (no plumps!). Photo/phone. Danny, Box 11658 Chandler Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601. I dig massaging (using oil!) (7)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond, beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. (7)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disappointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Hollywood, CA 90078. (7)

Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138. (7)

## GET INTO THE BLK MARKET FREE

•**Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

•**Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

•**All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.

•**Box number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK box for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

•**Replying to a BLK box.** Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Box # \_\_\_\_\_  
BLK Classifieds  
Box 83912  
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

•**Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

Please complete and sign the following. This information will not appear in your ad.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for August issue: July 21, 1989.

Figure cost of ad:

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Cost to run ad one month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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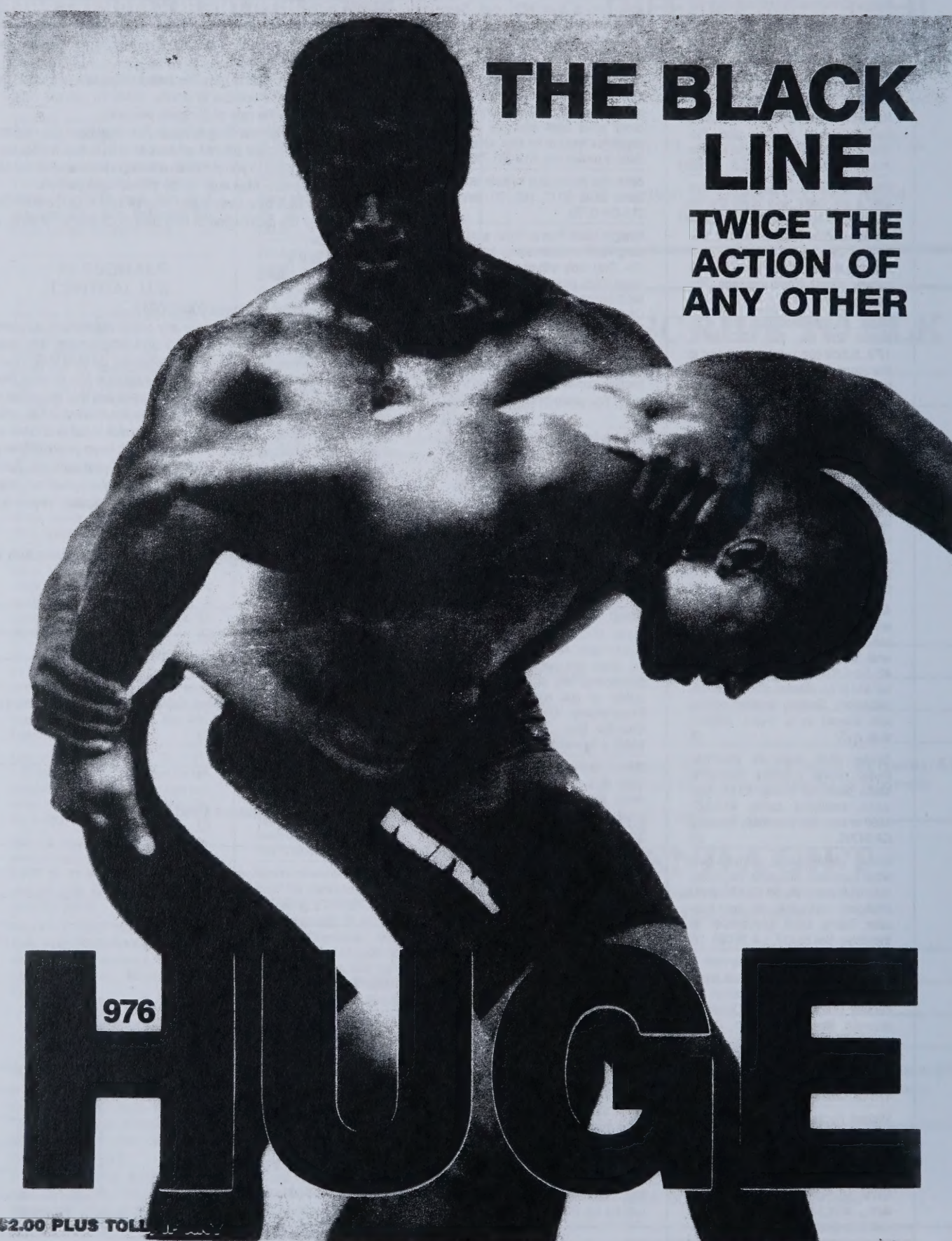
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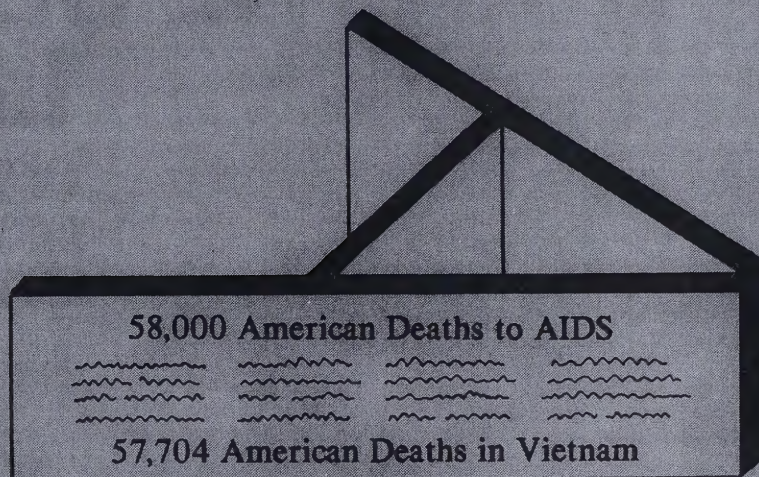
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# WAR ON AIDS MEMORIAL



## 57 HOURS OF REMEMBRANCE

As of July 1989 more Americans will have died of AIDS than in Vietnam.

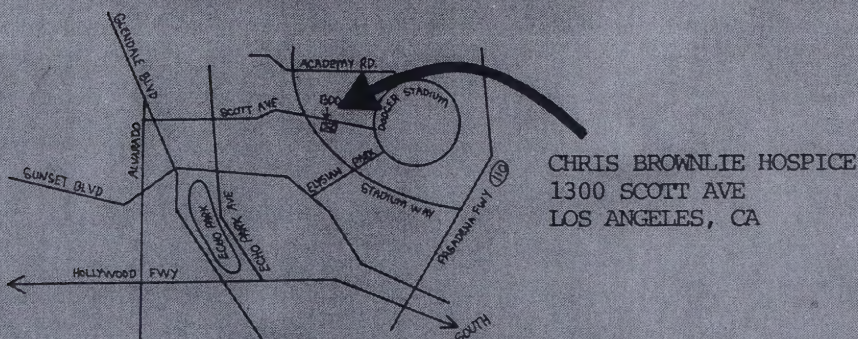
AIDS will kill many more Americans, perhaps more than World War II, if we do not redouble our efforts to stop it.

An 8' by 20' "A" with the names of many who have died of AIDS is being built on the grounds of Chris Brownlie Hospice in Elysian Park. (Beginning at 9 AM Thursday, July 13th, and continuing until 4 PM Saturday, July 15th)

As the "V" in Washington has symbolized the tragic loss of life in Vietnam, this temporary "A" will commemorate the casualties to AIDS.

You are invited to come and place a name, message, flower, or a memento by the memorial.

**Opening Ceremonies: 9 AM Thursday, July 13th**  
**Closing Ceremonies: 4 PM Saturday, July 15th**



Sponsored by AIDS Hospice Foundation, Being Alive, Mothers of Aids Patients Los Angeles, Families Who Care, Names Project L.A. County, Northern Lights Alternatives -- Sally Fisher, United Spirit Church -- Rev. Scott, The Hay House -- Louise Hay









# BLK

Number 6, May 1989





## *Because we care...*

**We provide the following services:** • medical and legal referrals • residential shelter • emergency food and food bank referrals • medical transportation • benefit assistance • individual and group counseling • "buddy" volunteer assistance.

**And we provide the following AIDS education and training services:** • "training the teacher" programs • community outreach • in-service training • business and professional seminars • speaker's bureau.

## *Want to know more...*

**Call 213-936-4949** anytime day or night. We're here to help.  
Because we care.

# *Minority AIDS Project*

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# Blk Board

## FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1989

Black and White Men Together/Detroit Anniversary and Midwest Region Network Meeting. Workshops, board meeting, banquet and brunch. Field trip to a Canadian bar. 313-965-4646.

## MONDAY, MAY 1, 1989

AIDS 101 Health Outreach and Training sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project for the next four consecutive Mondays. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. 213-936-4949.

## FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1989

Ayofemi Stowe Folayan will read excerpts from her works. She is co-author of *Talking About Talking* and *The Power to Shape the World*. Page One Bookstore, 966 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 7:30 p.m. 818-798-8694.

Party Animal Night/Cinco de Mayo Party. Door prizes. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-734-8849.

## SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1989

Youth Workshop sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project. Olivett Baptist Church, 976 E. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 213-936-4949.

## SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1989

Bowling outing sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los. Call Diamond for location. 213-738-7394.

Jewel Williams, owner of the Catch One, is celebrating her 50th Birthday with a dinner at Catch One. 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3:30 p.m. dinner and program; 8 p.m.-2 a.m. dancing. \$10 before 8 p.m., \$3 after. Call between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 213-734-8849 for reserved dinner seating.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1989

"Building a Multicultural Organization" will be the topic of discussion at this month's Community Roundtable Breakfast. Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 a.m.

## SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1989

The Clubhouse will celebrate its 13th Anniversary with a gala party. 1296 Upshur St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

## FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

Theater outing to "Harlem Suite" starring Maurice Hines and Melba Moore sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Champagne reception with stars follows performance. Pantages Theater, 6233 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. \$45-85. 213-667-2549.

Black and White Men Together/Youngstown Sixth Anniversary Weekend called "Getting to Know Ourselves." Workshops, reception, picnic, brunch, banquet, party, film and sports. Free housing. May 19-21. For more information, call Don at 216-782-3483 or Bob at 216-747-3624.

## SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1989

Thelma Houston will be among the performers entertaining at the sixth annual Long Beach Lesbian and Gay

Pride Parade and Festival May 20 and 21, 1989. Grand marshall of the event titled, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," is Larry Boxx. Shoreline Aquatic Park, Shoreline Dr. at Pine Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., both days. 213-439-0696.

As part of the continuing "Lesbian Writers Series" at A Different Light Bookstore, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan will read excerpts from her works. She is co-author of *Talking About Talking* and *The Power to Shape the World*. 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. 213-668-0629.

House Party sponsored by Black Jack. Music, dancing, conversation, plus things to eat and drink. Non-sexual. Open to non-Black Jack members. The Franklin Plaza Hotel, 7230 Franklin Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. 213-338-1516.

Black comedian Karen Williams will M.C. an evening of music and comedy celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Women's Alcoholism Center. Also appearing will be jazz vocalist Rhiannon, jazz musician Mimi Foxx and Sara Felder. Complimentary dessert and complimentary non-alcoholic beverages. Free childcare. Interpreted for the hearing impaired. First Congregational Church, Post and Mason Streets, San Francisco, Calif. 8 p.m. \$10-25. 415-282-8900.

"Candidate Night" for Emperor and Empress of the Imperial Court of South Bay. This fundraiser will include appearances by the candidates and a show featuring lip-synching. Annexx, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$3 donation. For more information contact Dana. 213-671-7323.

## SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1989

As part of the continuing "Gay Writers Series" at A Different Light Bookstore, Larry Duplechan will read excerpts from his latest novel, *Tangled Up in Blue*. 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m. 213-668-0629.

Planning Meeting for a Black Lesbian Conference called by an ad hoc committee. Open to all black women. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m. Call Gini for more information. 213-204-3894.

Nude Beach Outing sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call René for location. 213-483-1108.

## SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989

Annual Picnic sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Griffith Park. 3 p.m. Call for location. 213-664-4716.

## SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1989

The Ninth Annual Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together will take place July 2-8, 1989 at the Florida State University Center for Professional Development in Tallahassee, Florida. For more information contact BWMT Tallahassee/Big Bend Florida, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3321. 904-681-9499.

## FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1989

The second biannual Adodi Retreat entitled, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS," will take place July 21-23, 1989 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, a village 30 miles outside Philadelphia. For additional information, contact Larry Hadley at 215-662-1755, Cliff Rawlins at 215-727-1084 or write Adodi, Box 19132, Philadelphia, Penn. 19103.



# Blk Mail

Dear Editor:

It was my impression that BLK would be a publication of good taste until I picked up my first issue and read Revon Kyle Banneker's recent interview with porn "actor" Randy Cochran [BLK, March 1989].

The glorification of pornography and prostitution was appalling and unfortunately reinforced the negative, immoral images so often associated with the homosexual community. Your choice to showcase someone who "sold out" for an easy buck proves where BLK's priorities lie. It was not only disappointing, it was terribly insulting.

Jeff Copeland  
Hollywood, California

Dear Editor:

I'm impressed with your new BLK magazine. Would like to see you continue the Randy Cochran-type interview with black "porno" stars. Please send a gift subscription including the three back issues to the enclosed.

Larry Northan  
Scottsdale, Arizona

Dear Editor:

Is there any way possible to have the enclosed cover photo of Randy Cochran autographed? The article was great and very informative.

J. R. Thompkins  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Editor:

The previous letters to the editor [BLK, March 1989; BLK, April 1989] concerning "the letter" circulated during the [National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership] Conference point to a strategic flaw in the approach of many of our black gay leaders.

The approach so often is (1) "You are going about the business of helping our community all wrong," and (2) "I know what you can do to remedy the situation." While I respect the dedication, and leadership skills, good intentions and guts of our leaders, I believe that this approach has not generally been effective.

Rather than point the finger at others, I suggest that our leaders turn that finger on themselves. It is a very rare instance when I have ever heard our leaders say, "I may be part of the problem; I may need to change; I may need to listen more to others more effectively."

I have a feeling that "the letter" issue is not over. Other issues will likely crop up and remain unsolved if we are not able to admit to our brothers that we made a mistake, to earnestly be willing to rectify the problem, and to accept good intentions of those who err.

Phillip Jones  
Gardena, California

Blk Mail should be addressed to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.



"Conspicuous heterosexualism."

# BLK

Number 6, May 1989

Editor and Publisher Alan Bell

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Cover: Ayofemi Stowe Folayan. Photo by Bob Finney. Cartoons courtesy Ebony. New captions by BLK.



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**6th Annual**

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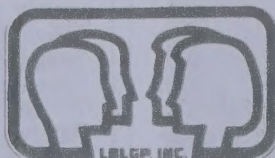
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# Talking about Ayofemi

*Playwright, poet and performer to appear  
in L.A. and Oakland*

**By Mark Haile**



**Robin Podolsky (left) and Ayofemi Stowe Folayan**

Identifying yourself as a black lesbian community activist would not be construed by most people as an act of humility. But for Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, the modesty is real if unconscious, the description, genuine understatement.

Ayofemi Stowe Folayan has been an activist on many fronts—as a black woman, as a lesbian, as a writer and as a performer, mentioning but a few. The play she co-wrote and in which she co-stars with Robin Podolsky, *Talking about Talking*, will be performed on May 7, 1989 at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium, and on June 2, 1989 at Mama Bears Coffeehouse in Oakland. The two-woman piece speaks directly to all people living in an oppressive culture, unwilling to settle for mere survival.

The concept that informs *Talking about Talking* began to take shape following Folayan's participation in the Celebration Theater production of *Pursuit of Happiness* in 1987. The play, an intensely personal piece for Folayan, has gone through several revisions which parallel

her own evolution. The dialogue clearly conveys the development of her own sense of identity as the community around her is seen struggling to define itself.

The long road to self-discovery of Ayofemi Stowe Folayan has been pitted by the experiences that today have become themes in her writings. *In a Different Light*, a newly published anthology of lesbian work, contains a poem by Folayan about the death of her daughter, a poignant expression of grief and of recovery found through the healing power of suffering.

"My writing is a declaration," states Folayan, "There is always some hope—even if you have to ferret it out." This she says while recovering from a hip injury received when she was knocked down during a recent Pro-Choice demonstration at a Mid-Wilshire women's clinic.

Physical restrictions have done little to slow her down. Instead, they have provided her with fresh anecdotes to relate. "I can't physically stand in line to march now, but I can write about it!" she declares. Folayan remembers a



story evolving from her work on the rape hotline, and the experiences that arose from that involvement.

"I believe in the power of being alive. I'm here, and I'm learning to name what is." The dedication shown in Folayan's work could be considered remarkable in the face of her infirmities or of the calamities she has weathered through life.

Raised in Boston by her grandparents, Folayan lost her only brother in a fire. She lets it be known that she was a victim of incest as a child, in the hope that her recovery will motivate other women to seek help in overcoming their own experiences of childhood abuse.

While at Vassar College, Folayan became politicized through her involvement with the student Afro-American Society. When Folayan left Boston for New York, she enrolled in the National Black Theater troupe and began to explore her artistic talents.

It was there that Folayan received training in acting, writing, directing and managing a theater group. "When you're forced to grow, you find out you can do a lot more things than you thought you could," she recalls.

In New York, Folayan discovered that art could fuse with politics. When it was time to make the move to California, she was surprised by the laid back manner of West Coast theater. "If you brought up politics in theater in those days, you were considered strange," she remembers. For more than a decade, Folayan put her politics and creative talent on the shelf while she pursued the comforts of the material world. "I was slowly dying when I was not writing," she admits, "The externals were all okay, but I didn't have me."

Recurring illness brought on depression and isolation. In gaining back her health, Folayan saw a distinct similarity between her situation and that of so many other lesbians of color. The ominous lack of attention to women's health issues—cancer, alcoholism, rape, and lupus, to name a few—ranks her. "I'm going to write about and illuminate these things so we can talk about them. Until we address it and talk about it, we'll stay fearful and isolated," Folayan insists.

After ending her isolation, Folayan went to the far extreme, becoming vocal and visible through her participation in IMRU radio and Celebration Theater, where she was named playwright-in-residence during 1987 and 1988.

"It took me a long time to acknowledge I needed to be active in my life," says Folayan.

"Fe-mi-nist." Folayan intones the word slowly. "There is power in being able to stand up and tell my story. It's an encouraging event for me, to have other women to tell their stories, and to have hope."

"There are not a lot of us [black lesbian feminists] out there," she continues frankly, "telling our stories."

To correct that, Folayan has become involved in the planning of the 1991 National Lesbian Conference, with the aim of making it as inclusive as possible. "I'm real excited about the potential of this conference," she says.

"I'm dedicated to not being one of that small core of people who burn themselves out."

"I'm interested in reaching out to other women who share my existence. I'm a real bridgeworker. We *must* make these connections."

Folayan finds the lack of an organized black lesbian community in Los Angeles distressing. "It makes me very sad," she concedes, hoping that events at the National Lesbian Conference will constitute the groundwork to help change that.

Folayan goes on to note how few times skills acquired by those active in the community are turned over to the next generation. She voices a concern for preserving

what has been learned to date, as well as capturing the talents of the present for the future.

"Both Audre Lorde and Pat Parker are battling breast cancer," notes Folayan, "I'm trying to pass on what I know; I won't be here forever, but I want to do it responsibly."

In working to preserve her contributions to lesbian and gay culture, Folayan is preparing to adapt *Talking about Talking* for video. She is also excited about a program taped with Audre Lorde and Cheryl Clarke for KPFF's annual Gay Pride Day this coming Fourth of July weekend.

In addition to her current theatrical productions, Folayan is at work on a novel, and has two readings scheduled: one at Page One Bookstore in Pasadena on May 5, 1989 and one at A Different Light Bookstore in Silverlake on May 20, 1989.

Folayan reflects inward for a moment. "So many people think, I'm the only one!...I never had to be ashamed. I could be honest about these things in my life."

"The first step is to acknowledge the effort that it takes to survive. We get wrapped up in what it's like, and not how it can be."

She takes another moment to assess her life. Ayofemi Stowe Folayan: activist, mother, black woman, lesbian, artist, and finishes the thought with a shrug, a smile, and another understatement: "I'm just out there, doing what I do."



Ayofemi Stowe Folayan (center) with authors Pat Parker (left) and Cheryl Clarke prior to a recent reading of their works at California State University, Los Angeles.



# Policing the Task Force

*How and why people of color got kicked off  
a city advisory board*

**By L. Lloyd Jordan**

On April 14, 1982 Ivy Bottini stood before the Los Angeles Police Commission arguing that the voices of the lesbian and gay community needed to be heard down at Parker Center. Among those who stepped up to the mike one by one to back Bottini were people of color representing Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays (APLG), Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles (BWMT/LA) and the Latin Church of Christian Fellowship. They were attesting to the inclusiveness of the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force (GLPATF), of which Bottini was co-chair. That day the Commission recognized the Task Force as its official liaison to the lesbian and gay community.

On April 6, 1989 all persons of color and minority-oriented organizations represented on the Task Force were expelled from membership by the presiding chairman, Marshal Phillips, in the presence of a police department representative. Immediately afterward, Ivy Bottini accepted re-election as co-chair. Also disenfranchised at that meeting were representatives of several organizations who had previously been allowed to vote at Task Force meetings, but who had sided with the dissident minorities in the organization's recent controversy.

What happened between April 1982 and April 1989 at GLPATF to destroy one of the few coalitions functioning in the gay and lesbian community?

Not a lot, actually.

For most of its seven years the Task Force has drawn desultory participation from its members, including its minority members, except for brief periods following some police-related crisis. Two such crises converged about a year and a half ago. A series of assaults on gay men and police raids on Silverlake bars focused attention on the relations between the community and LAPD.

Marshal Phillips, former political vice president of Stonewall Democratic Club, along with several other lesbian and gay activists, demanded accountability from local politicians and the police department. As usual, GLPATF was largely ignored in the community's first reaction. But as negotiations continued GLPATF seemed the logical vehicle for ongoing dialogue with the police. Phillips became Stonewall's representative on the Task Force. He is widely credited with having been instrumental in the police negotiations with Mayor Bradley's and Councilman Mike Woo's offices, and with having helped restore prominence and credibility to GLPATF.

## **Minority Gays Expelled**

However, last December, when the upcoming vacancy of the chairmanship was discussed, neither Phillips nor any other Task Force member expressed a willingness to run for the position. Outgoing chairman Tom Coleman appointed Gabriel Bustamante, a gay aide to Mayor Bradley, and Roger Coggan of Lawyers for Human

Rights (LHR) as members of a nominating committee to recruit new co-chairs.

Apparently, the trouble began when Phillips learned that he was not going to be nominated by the committee, but that a man of color not previously a member of the Task Force was to be nominated. Although Phillips told BLK that GLPATF's by-laws do not permit new or non-members to hold office, no motion was made to declare Marich ineligible on those grounds, nor did anyone object later when Phillips ran on a slate with a brand new member.

Coggan and Bustamante decided that Mario Soliz Marich, a Latino, would make a good candidate. Marich, former co-chair of the No On 96/102 Committee and current administrator of the Neighborhood AIDS Consortium, agreed to run. Coggan and Bustamante contend that Marich's administrative background, past activism and commitment to inclusion of lesbians and gays of color made him exceptionally well-qualified. They also asked Vanessa Place of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) to run for the co-chairwomanship.

At the January meeting, the nominating committee's report was not voted upon when Phillips made it clear he felt cheated out of nomination by the committee. Phillips, and Stonewall member Don Hunt, had already explained their concerns to Stonewall's executive committee, members of which began soliciting support for Phillips within and outside the Task Force.

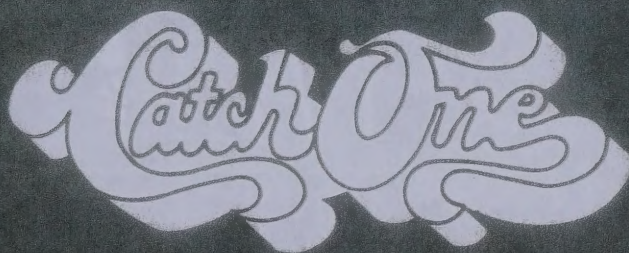
Marich's supporters also began soliciting support for the February election. But Place agreed to run with Phillips as a slate, prompting the nominating committee to recruit Carol Anderson of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to run independently. Thus, in February, voters perceived the choice to be between Phillips and Place or Marich and Anderson, all newcomers to GLPATF except Phillips.

Both sides stacked the meeting with supporters, some of whom paid dues on the spot and indicated what organizations they were "representing." No one was effectively challenged because it had already been discovered that according to long-ignored by-laws, only one organization was technically eligible to vote. BWMT/LA's GLPATF representative, who is African American, has not attended GLPATF meetings in months, and APLG's membership seems to have lapsed some time ago. Phillips and Place won a narrow victory.

## **Arbitration Attempt Fails**

But at the following month's meeting, fewer of Phillips's supporters showed up and a motion to invalidate the election and hold another one in April passed. Phillips stormed out, while Place continued chairing the meeting, after which she resigned to encourage compromise. Marich's supporters asked Gay and Lesbian Com-





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Honoring  
Jewel Williams  
on her  
**50th**  
Birthday

## *A Personal Invitation*

TO A Birthday Dinner  
FOR Jewel Williams  
DATE Sunday May 7th, 1989  
TIME 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
PLACE Catch One Ballroom - 4067 W. Pico  
(Non-Alcohol & Non-Smoking Areas Available)

R.S.V.P.  
ENTERTAINMENT - DANCING UNTIL 2:00 A.M.  
\$10.00 Admission  
(213) 734-8849





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riel Bustamente was Italian. It turns out he's Latin. Roger Coggan always likes Latin men...Roger Coggan did this to thwart me. Roger is a lawyer and a very slick one...Coggan knew I was destined to be co-chair...the Task Force to a man, knew it. Little Mario just happens to be Hispanic."

Apparently fearful of the kind of co-chair who hangs up on the press, and recalling Phillips's stated opposition to GLPATF's doing outreach to minority gays as a priority, the nominating committee chose to look elsewhere for co-chair candidates. But their failure to tell Phillips upfront why he was not nominated led to Stonewall's conviction that he was being blackballed out of spite by Coggan, a member of MECLA, which Stonewall may soon supplant as gay L.A.'s "power pack." Thus Stonewall leaders insist that the issue of outreach to lesbians and gays of color is a red herring, not a serious concern of the nominating committee or of Marich.

In Stonewall's April newsletter, editor Tom Collins (who recently joined GLPATF representing the Valley Business Alliance) states, "It is only too bad that some people—and yes, I *am* impugning their motives—would apparently sacrifice the Task Force on the altar of their own powergrabbing. Even worse...is that shrill cries of "racism" should be used to manipulate the situation for private purposes and personal gain."

"Unfortunately, the legitimate term 'people of color' was dishonestly misused by a political faction composed of people who were white, by and large, against their opponents in an overheated election campaign," said Phillips, reading from a prepared statement. "The Task Force has always had ethnic representation and no attempt has ever been made to exclude *anyone* on the basis of race. The real issue was competition over the office of co-chair."

Similar arguments have been made repeatedly by his supporters, and are probably sincerely believed. Perhaps such comments would seem more convincing if other equally relevant facts were not invariably omitted, for instance, the pact to remind only Phillips's supporters to be documented in strict accordance with the by-laws prior to the April meeting.

Insofar as Stonewall activists believe that some of Marich's group may be committed to inclusion of minority gays and issues, they seem also to genuinely believe that such a focus is an inappropriate usurpation of GLPATF's agenda. "The majority of these people have never done anything at all—nothing whatsoever—to deal with the Task Force agenda rather than their own or to accomplish *its* purposes rather than theirs," Collins writes.

Some who attended the March meeting felt that proof of this came when outreach to minorities was voted the primary goal of the Task Force on a motion by Marich. But Marich says that when a five-point list of the year's priorities was presented to GLPATF to approve, minority outreach was omitted. Marich's supporters voted to make outreach number one on the list to put on record their feeling that it had been most neglected and deserved immediate attention.

Nonetheless, such an action was bound to be misconstrued. Anglos become active in the movement to promote their civil rights as gays. While they pay lip service to other agendas and may, out of goodwill or guilt, divert some of their energy to other struggles, many feel ripped off when compelled to allocate significant effort to problems they did not become activists to address. Because lesbians and gays of color are inhibited in living healthy gay lives by racism as much as by homophobia, it is difficult to respond to the two "isms" as though they are

unconnected. It feels diminishing to accept as legitimate the Anglo need for minorities to subordinate the battle against racism to the battle against homophobia when interacting with them.

### Strategies for the Future

For social clubs, by-laws are a formality. But for coalitions, such as GLPATF, by-laws are treaties among allies whose shared interests are limited. Such by-laws must be carefully drafted and adhered to diligently. People of color need to pay scrupulous attention to these matters because sooner or later, when the priorities and resources of the coalition are in dispute, the by-laws are likely to be used by those most familiar with them to get their way.

It is therefore hard to understand why Marich's supporters came to the April meeting without their credentials in hand, given that they had been tipped off that the other side was gathering its documents. Naïveté under such circumstances is, at best, costly and at worst, fatal. One must wonder whether or not lesbians and gays of color are serious about protecting their interests when they choose not to prepare for a switch in tactics by their adversaries. It is, of course, legitimate to refuse to play a dirty game, if there is the willingness to stand on the sidelines and watch the action go by. But it is a waste of time to play hard ball and then throw the game.

Aside from sanctioning Stonewall's purge, a decision by Marich's coalition to found a new task force will tax the resources of minority-oriented organizations. These organizations have not only borne the responsibility of supplying the people of color whose presence helped legitimize GLPATF, but they have stretched themselves thin trying to respond to the same need in other predominantly Anglo organizations. When white members lose interest, their organizations have tended to allow their GLPATF membership to lapse. But when people of color burn out or move on, their absence causes gay coalitions to blanch noticeably. This makes minority-oriented organizations appear more indifferent or slipshod than they are, when in reality white organizations are not held to account for seldom recruiting people of color as their representatives. The solution to this ongoing problem will rarely lie in increasing the responsibilities carried by minority activists. Yet forming new organizations when old ones are unresponsive does just that.

Moreover, all gay organizations need to adjust to the fact that in a city, county and state soon facing re-apportionment, wherein people of color are rapidly becoming a majority, advancement of the gay cause requires that they be inclusive and responsive to ethnic concerns regardless of their agendas or levels of personal commitment. They also need to know that minority lesbians and gays are willing to use the growing leverage afforded them by changing demographics.

Finally, it is important to note that although this controversy has swirled around racial issues, the factions involved have *not* split exclusively along racial lines. Representatives of the GLAAD, LHR, AIDS Research and Education, the International Archives, Harvey Milk Democrats, the Peace and Freedom Party's Gay and Lesbian Caucus, USC's Gay and Lesbian Student Assembly and Mayor Tom Bradley's representative, along with other individuals, have been consistently and often courageously supportive of the need for inclusion in GLPATF. This is a fracas among uneasy allies who are fighting side-by-side in twin wars against homophobia and AIDS. There must be both respect for differences in tactics, and appreciation for cooperation.



# Blk Community News

## BWMT/LA Told: Hospice to Locate in South Central

By Mark Haile and Alan Smithee

LOS ANGELES—Addressing the Los Angeles chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT/LA) last month, Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Hospice Foundation (AHF), announced plans for AHF to establish a new hospice in South Central Los Angeles. The facility is to be located adjacent to the King-Drew Medical Center.

AHF currently operates Elysian Park's Chris Brownlie Hospice, named for an active member of BWMT/LA. The hospice, a residence for PWAs in the final stages of AIDS, will be the first opened in a black community in Los Angeles. Details about funding for the facility were not immediately available.

The Brownlie hospice is funded through a combination of government grants and private donations.

Weinstein's announcement came as part of a keynote address delivered at BWMT/LA's annual Installation Banquet. Installed as officers for the 1989-90 term were Guy Hubbard as black co-chair, René Seidel as white co-

chair, secretary John Dick, treasurer Les Amer, and members-at-large Diamond Murray and Marc Denton.

Jewel Williams and Bobby Smith were given special awards at the dinner, held at the Hyatt Hotel in West Hollywood. Williams received the BWMT Lifetime Achievement Award "for tireless work in the lesbian and gay community." She was cited for her fundraising efforts on behalf of many organizations, and for frequently offering the Catch One, which she owns, as a site for meetings and events.

Bobby Smith, a longtime BWMT/LA member, was the third recipient of the Steven L. Whitfield Memorial Award, presented in memory of the first member of BWMT/LA to succumb to AIDS. Smith has served, along with Jewel Williams, on the board of the Minority AIDS Project since it was founded in 1985. He was also recently honored as the only openly gay man to be included among the *L.A. Weekly's* list of "Los Angeles Heroes of the 1980s," for his dedication to providing care and services to people with AIDS.

## CDC Lists March Stats on AIDS Cases in U.S.

ATLANTA (AP)—The latest statistics on AIDS in the United States as reported by the national Centers for Disease Control are reported below. These statistics are through March 1989, and have been rounded to the nearest whole percent. Cumulative totals are for AIDS cases reported since June 1981, and include 75 cases subsequently found to have occurred prior to that date.

### Number of Cases

Total cases reported since June 1981: 90,990.

Cases, last 12 months: 21,103.

Total deaths: 52,435, or 58 percent of all cases.

### Transmission Categories

Homosexual or bisexual males: 55,005, or 60 percent.

Intravenous drug abusers: 17,999, or 20 percent.

Homosexual male and drug abusers: 6,407, or 7 percent.

Heterosexual cases: 3,962, or 4 percent.

Transfusion or blood cases: 2,417, or 3 percent.

Hemophilia patients: 952, or 1 percent.

Children of parents with AIDS or at risk: 1,188, or 1 percent.

Other or undetermined transmission cause: 3,080, or 3 percent.

### Race

Cases among whites: 51,987, or 57 percent.

Cases among blacks: 24,328, or 27 percent.

Cases among Hispanics: 13,811, or 15 percent.

Cases among Asians or Pacific Islanders: 540, or 1 percent.

Cases among American Indians or Alaskan natives: 107, or 0 percent.

### Age

Childhood cases (under age 13): 1,489, or 2 percent.



BWMT/LA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and Catch One owner Jewel Williams with BWMT/LA co-chair Guy Hubbard.



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## Group Plans Outreach to Lesbians of Color

SAN FRANCISCO—The planning committee for the Second West Coast Conference and Celebration of Old Lesbians [60 and older], announced the formation of a Women of Color Contact Committee. Its purpose is to make sure the special concerns of lesbians of all races and cultures are given attention both before and during the conference.

The program for the conference, which is now being developed, will include special interest workshops, "speak out" (open microphone) periods, arts, entertainment and other features.

The assembly is scheduled to be held August 4 through August 6, 1989, at San Francisco State University's new Conference Center. Interested lesbians of color can contact either Marge 415-724-3185 or Dottie 415-525-6198 or write to West Coast Celebration II, Box 31787, San Francisco CA 94131.

## ACT-UP Plans Meeting

LOS ANGELES—The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/Los Angeles will host a "Day of Education" as the first of two spring events which focus on access to health care in the AIDS epidemic. The first event, which is being called "Pushed to the Limit: AIDS and the Health Care Crisis," will take place Saturday May 6, 1989 at 1:30 p.m. in West Hollywood's Plummer Park.

According to the group, the afternoon will consist of panel presentations and informal discussions, and "will address the state of the epidemic, barriers to care, and possible alternatives to the current fragmented and inefficient health care system."

Specialists will present the latest epidemiological information about AIDS within the gay male and people of color communities, and will discuss treatment options, private and public health care coverage, alternatives to conventional care, and the experience with comprehensive health care plans in the United States and other countries.

## NAN Announces Execs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The board of directors of the National AIDS Network (NAN) announced recently the members of its newly elected seven-member executive committee.

Richard Dunne, executive director of Gay Men's Health Crisis Inc., of New York, remains as chairman until June. The chair then will shift to Timothy Wolfred, Ph.D., executive director of San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Rashidah Lorraine Hassan, R.N., co-founder and executive director of Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues of Philadelphia, is the new vice-chair of the board. Eric Engstrom, executive director of the Minneapolis-based Minnesota AIDS Project, is secretary of the board. Jim Graham, administrator of the Whitman-Walker Clinic of Washington, D.C. is the board's treasurer.

Other executive committee members are Marie M. Saint CyrDelpe, M.S.W., executive director of the Women and AIDS Resource Network of New York, and Phill Wilson, founder and chair of the Los Angeles-based Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.



## BGLLF Slates Benefit

LOS ANGELES—The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is sponsoring a benefit theater outing to see "Harlem Suite," starring Maurice Hines and Melba Moore. The event, which includes a champagne reception following the performance with both stars in attendance, will take place at the Pantages Theater May 19, 1989 at 8 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will be used to help fund the effort to bring openly gay black Simon Nkoli, an anti-apartheid activist, to Los Angeles.

"Simon Nkoli has committed his life and in fact placed his life at great risk to free both gay and lesbian black people in South Africa," said Phill Wilson, BGLLF chair. "We are humbled at the opportunity to sponsor this benefit as the first step in bringing him to Los Angeles."

"Nkoli's struggles are testament to the courage and spirit of gay and lesbian and black people around the world," Wilson added.

Nkoli is founder of the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Whittingham and co-founder of the Gay Association of South Africa.

## Adodi, BEBASHI Plan Weekend Philly Retreat

PHILADELPHIA—Adodi Philadelphia, the support group for black gay men established in 1986, has announced plans for its second biannual retreat, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS," to be held Friday, July 21 through Sunday, July 23, 1989 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The retreat is being co-sponsored by Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues, a Philadelphia-based AIDS education and information agency.

"These are extremely difficult times for all black gay men in this country," stated Clifford Rawlins, Adodi founder. "While racism and homophobia continue to be major obstacles to be dealt with, the devastation that AIDS is creating in our community makes our situation all the more critical."

"The primary purpose of these retreats," he adds, "is to provide an opportunity for black gay men, especially any of us who have tested positive or are living with an AIDS diagnosis to come together in a supportive environment to share our feelings and to learn from each other. By the end of the retreat, we hope that everyone will leave having enhanced their skills for improving the quality of their lives."

The anticipated 100 participants will be offered a variety of workshops and experiential exercises dealing with AIDS and other health-related matters, spirituality, creativity, culture, relationships, personal financial management, building political power and legal issues. A grant application is currently being considered by a Philadelphia community foundation to provide a stipend of \$250 to each workshop facilitator.

In addition to the recreational activities afforded by the facilities and rural setting at Fellowship Farm, participants can also enjoy a dance party and a special performing arts program scheduled as part of the retreat.

The first Adodi retreat, "Self-Esteem—Loving Ourselves through the 80s," was held Thanksgiving weekend 1987 and attracted 50 men from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia, New York, Illinois, Virginia and Mississippi.

## Unity Fellowship Church A Church For All People

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- *A Non-Judgmental Ministry*

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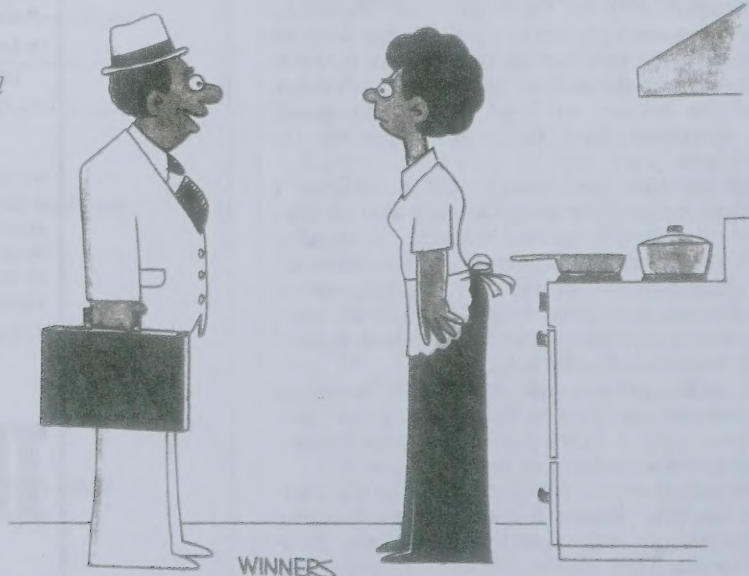
# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

SUNDAYS IN SPRING ARE MEANT FOR strolls in the park, fancy new bonnets and declarations of love. So nobody should have been surprised, but everybody *was* when, during a recent Sunday morning church service, one of the worshipers began telling fellow churchgoers that Cupid's arrow had finally pierced his heart. As it happens, the church was **Unity Fellowship** in L.A., the man was **Carl Bean**, Unity's minister and probably America's most famous black AIDS activist, and the announcement that he had found love was delivered from the pulpit. No one was more surprised by the public revelation than Rev's intended, **Eugene Cornelius**, past prez of Chicago's NCBLG chapter, who was literally so swept away with the ooohs, aahs and congratulations of the congregation that Rev was left on bended knee, and no one remembers how or if Nelius accepted the pastor's proposal. Some said it wasn't the proper place, time or manner. Maybe not, but it was bold, beautiful and very, very black. Love on, Rev!...In New York, Soho's New Museum just finished showcasing the controversial oils of **Robert Colescott**, now *en route* to Seattle for a May 20 through July 15 exhibit. Colescott, who hails from Oakland, studied in Paris and did time in Egypt, has infuriated some African Americans with his satiric portrayals of blacks from old ads à la **Aunt Jemima** and **Uncle Ben**. Honestly, how would black folks ever have survived if we hadn't had more sense of humor than the current Guardians of Political Correctitude are willing to allow us nowadays? Mama always said, "Laughter heals, children!"...Brains—and egos—are bustin' out all over. Three metropoli now have self-styled black, gay "think tanks"; Chicago's **Group Dialogue**, L.A.'s **Salon Noir** and D.C.'s **African American Collective**. Why don't y'all get off your precious brains—er, buns—and do something. Better yet, just get over yourselves...Also in Chi-

cago, friends tell us, is the hottest African American same-sex scene seen. **Jeffrey's Pub** and the **Rialto** are the two friendliest hangouts, but the **411 Club** and **Martin's Den** have more dance space and more women on the premises, while **Club LaRay** wins the trophy for the being the biggest black gay dance bar in the Midwest, with multiple everything—shows, videos and card games. Among the private clubs (in descending order of female membership), **Executive Sweet**, **Friends, Inc.** and **Chieftains** are still going strong...But in Eve's half-eaten, sin-ridden Big Apple, street scene patrons are all adither since the **Metropolitan** (aka the **Opera House**) was demolished and some of the 3rd Avenue pornshops closed down. Okay, for those of you who *insist* on living dangerously, we'll spill this T once only: the bookstores on 42nd Street, and the kind of traffic they draw, are still flourishing, even though the **Barracks** baths closed two years ago. But the **Mt. Morris** tubs in Harlem are still overflowing (grab your rubbers!). At the **Ascot Theatre** on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx, hets head upstairs, gays go down, and watch what you grab in the backroom; *les filles de joie* are as apt to be conducting business in the dark with their johns as are hustlers with theirs. Lunchtime near City Hall is said to be delicious and nutritious downstairs in **St. Ann's Bookstore**, if you watch what you eat. Remember: safe sex, guys...Out in L.A., it was lovely running into **Jerry** and **Roger** at **Griff's**, 'cuz the former so seldom lets the latter out. But there they were, cooing and growling at each other as in years of yore...It's been such an unexpected hassle trying to get some of L.A.'s gay establishments to carry **BLK** that it was a surprise and a pleasure when **One Way** owner **Brett Murray** not only welcomed and encouraged us but invited our readership in to view his new, specially commissioned **Tom of Finland** poster, which features both black and white male figures...Finally, kisses and kudos to **Jewel Williams** who always shows what can be done if you care. When you walk into Jewel's **Catch One** you practically stumble over the **Minority AIDS Project's** info booth and staff. No safe sex lit buried in dark corners, or brochures tossed atop cigarette machines at the **Catch**. This lady means to save lives—and does!

"I'm going to work,  
then I'm going to  
Gilbert's house.  
He gives better head  
than you do."





# Blk Market

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday, Rev. Carl Bean. May all your hopes and wishes come true. Love, always. Your number one guy, Gene. (6)

Happy 50th, Jewel. May you have many more. Gene (6)

The whole city of L.A. wishes you, Von, a "safe" trip out of the country and a happy return. We love you. (6)

## SERVICES

Prestige Club Complete Auto Detailers. Buy a new car or just make it look like one. Low price, prestige quality because at Prestige Club, you're one of us. Call 213-874-5437. (7)

Personal health and fitness instructor. Phone Maleko at 213-465-2551. (7)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

BLK needs an artist to draw single-panel cartoons. Need not write captions. No experience necessary, but must be talented. Call 213-410-0808. Or send sample of work to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

BLK needs a librarian to construct an index of articles that have appeared in previous issues. No experience necessary. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Registered nurse. Full time. No experience necessary, but AIDS-related experience helpful. Call Lauren at 213-936-4949, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Or send resume to Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019. (6)

Volunteer Coordinator. Full time. Ability to work well with people. Culturally sensitive. Good oral and written skills. Call Lauren at 213-936-4949, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Or send resume to Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019. (6)

Messenger/driver needed for consortium of three companies. Full time days. Beeper provided. Must be dependable, have economical car and clean driving record. Bring proof of insurance and DMV printout to interview. Call Bobby. 213-667-2549. (6)

AIDS Nursing Care: RNs, LVNs, CNAs, all shifts. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (6)

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

## ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS, ARC, HIV+ social group. 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Castro area, San Francisco. Make friends or find a lover. No \$. Free personals list. Call Michael. 415-255-0614. (6)

Secular Recovery Anonymous/12 Step†, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (7)

San Diego AIDS Project craves black input. Call 619-543-0300. (7)

Nechama Jewish AIDS education, advocacy, referral. 213-653-8313. (6)

## PLACES TO LIVE

GBM looking for GM to share new 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhome, all luxury amenities. Must be neat, employed and non-smoker. Chino/Pomona area. \$400 plus 1/2 utilities. 714-628-2443. (6)

Looking for a roommate for 3-bedroom house. \$350 month including utilities. Call 213-960-7748. (7)

## FOR SALE

Free info for hot sex! More excitement and pleasure! Huge selection of top quality adult male products. Save 30% to 70% off! Confidential. Your name and address not released to anyone. CBG, Dept. 06, Box 5225, N. Hollywood, CA 91616. (6)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Every inch! is brought alive and relaxed. \$50 and travel if outside Hollywood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (10)

Non-sexual massage by hot BiWM, 195 lbs., 5'10" body-builder, big thighs, bubble butt. Certified, with table. \$40/hour. 213-204-6384. (7)

Very attractive black body builder gives best massage. Hot oil, hot hands, hot body, videos, table. Venice Beach. 24 hours. Very nice, safe, discreet. Call now. 213-396-4761. Ebony. (7)

## PERSONALS—EASTERN U.S.

Where have all the older GBM gone? Sincere GWM seeks friend/lover. Box 502, Kenmore, Boston, MA 02215. (8)

GBM, 30, 6'2", 210 lbs., masculine, monogamous, nice-looking, New York City, seeks Puerto Rican, Dominican, South American man, 30-40, nationwide for friendship, relationship. Write with photo. Michael Guthrie, Box 684083, Corona-A, NY 11368. (6)

Attractive GWM, deep blue eyes, beard and moustache, 5'9", seeks masculine GBM who knows himself. Honest, sincere and a good sense of humor. Write with photo. Bruce, Box 2291, Meriden, CT 06450. (8)

Total concrete structure along south Texas Rio Grande available to small-assed, AIDS-tested, dope-free, sex-within-house-only, honest youths. Box 475, Big Pine Key, FL 33043. (6)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53 years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or active. 40 to 70. No drugs, feds, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ

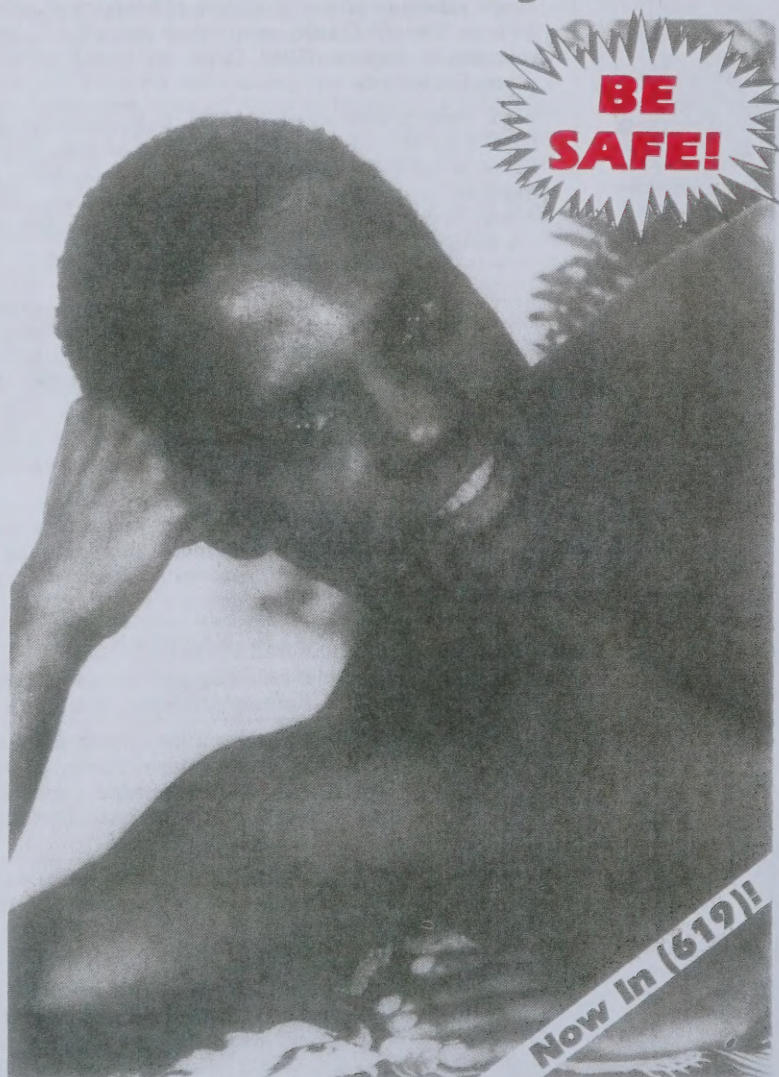


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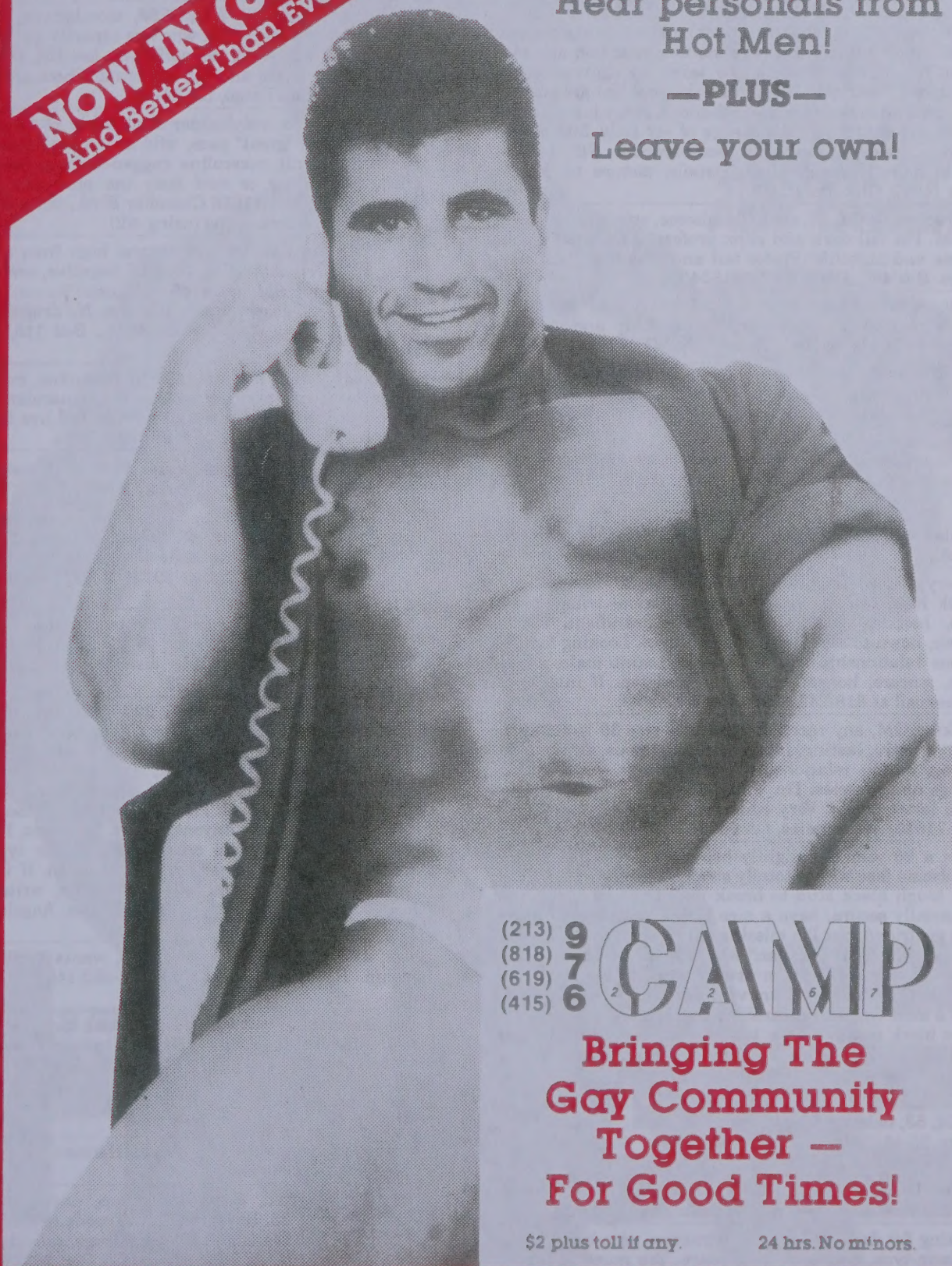


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Black male, educated, cultured, refined, interested in corresponding and meeting compatible males, any race or religion. Rev. R. J. Strickland, Box 72, Boston, MA 02126-0072. (7)

#### PERSONALS—CENTRAL U.S.

Hung like a horse (beer can thick) and can make me take it all? Man enough to invite me into your bed and plow open my bubble? I wanna be taken by aggressive, uninhibited, insatiable black stud like you! You are successful, professional and workalcoholic. A gutsy top with real need and ability to take charge of my body. Me: honest, sincere, freebird, successful, workalcoholic, 5'6", 145, 44, dark, hairy, Indian/Italian. Details, picture to: Robert, Box 14042, Chicago, IL 60614. (6)

Attractive GWM, 27, seeks handsome, straight-appearing GBM. I'm tall dark and slim; professional; equally enjoy home and nightlife. Prefer tall and muscular, fun-loving guys. Box 486, Danville, IL 61834. (8)

Gay white mid-westerner, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., looking for black men for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (8)

WM, 50, seeks BM, any age, for sincere intimate relationship. No drugs. F/A/P. No G. Anxious to please you and be friends. Bill, Box 9645, Minneapolis, MN 55458. (8)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

#### PERSONALS—WESTERN U.S.

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (6)

Seeking GM, any race, 18-28, under size 30 waist. Must want sincere, lasting, intense, monogamous, sweet, kind, loving, caring relationship with feelings, not material things and muscles. I'm white, 35, stocky, 5'11", 190. I'll send letter, photo. Very educated, warm, multi-talented. Box 71850, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (6)

I am a 26 year old slightly heavyset black man with a handsome face who is totally straight, but craves a rough and tough black stud to break me in the gay life. I am financially secure, have a nice house and car and also a nice girlfriend, but I'm missing out on something. I would only go with a "black man" who acts black. No "oreos." I also will only go with an attractive man. No fat out-of-shapes or drug users. I am very passionate. I have yet to find a man who can control my high sexual needs. I only want black men who are 10" or more. No sissies or girl-acting men. If you are 25-35 years old and are over 5'9" tall and fit the bill, write me. John, Box 8340, Inglewood, CA 90308. (6)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hollywood, CA 91607. (8)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Weber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, CA 90004. (11)

Looking for dark, hairy, tall, attractive, nice build, black or Latin-type, between 30-50 years. You must be profes-

sional, spiritual, sincere and romantic, and sexually be G/A or F/A/P (safe sex). Nipple play is nice. I am tall, slim, 6'2", 170, 36 years, blond, tan, green-eyed, health-oriented, nice build, G/P. Exchange of photos a must. Larce, 2407 Wilshire Blvd., Box 285, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (7)

Affectionate W/M, 38, 5'3", 128#, blond/green, seeking G/B, W man in his mid-30s who has capacity for love and commitment, educated, self-sufficient, healthy, attractive and willing to share all with his equal. Photo and phone to Box 33834, San Diego, CA 92103. (6)

GWM, mid-years bodybuilder stud (body of 25 weight-lifter ...better!) "great" pecs, wild in the sack (make you groan and burn!), masculine rugged-looking, hot, seeks GBM, bodybuilder or surf body (no plumps!). Photo/phone. Danny, Box 11658 Chandler Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601. I dig massaging (using oil!) (7)

TLC for gentle BM. Want a natural high from a warm, loving guy? Tall, slim WM, 43, HIV negative, seeks slim, or average built BM under 45. Interests: travel, photography, classical, gospel music, the arts. No drugs. Safe & sane sex. Write 11020 Ventura Blvd., Box 118, Studio City, CA 91604. (6)

Good-looking black athlete, 31, top, masculine, muscular, moustache, seeks younger, masculine, muscular, randy white boys who are bottom, streetwise and live for safe, clean fun. Serious replies only. 619-291-7834. (8)

Handsome GWM, 35, tall muscular, lean, seeks very muscular black man for passion with future. William 415-431-2656. (6)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond, beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. (7)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disappointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

Good-looking, GBM, 6'4", 36, 220 lbs., fair, bearded, professional, stalking articulate cuddle-bear, beefy and bearded (well, a moustache'll do) who will savor and succor, challenge and cherish, explore frontiers and frothage. Nothing easy sought or offered here, though a bed buddy would appeal: I'm uncertain if I'm focused or generous enough to be anyone's lover. Domestic, I'm not. Being intense, analytical and verbal, similar types attract; others beware. But I do love to laugh. If I sound like the stray pet you've been looking for, write Alex, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-237, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (7)

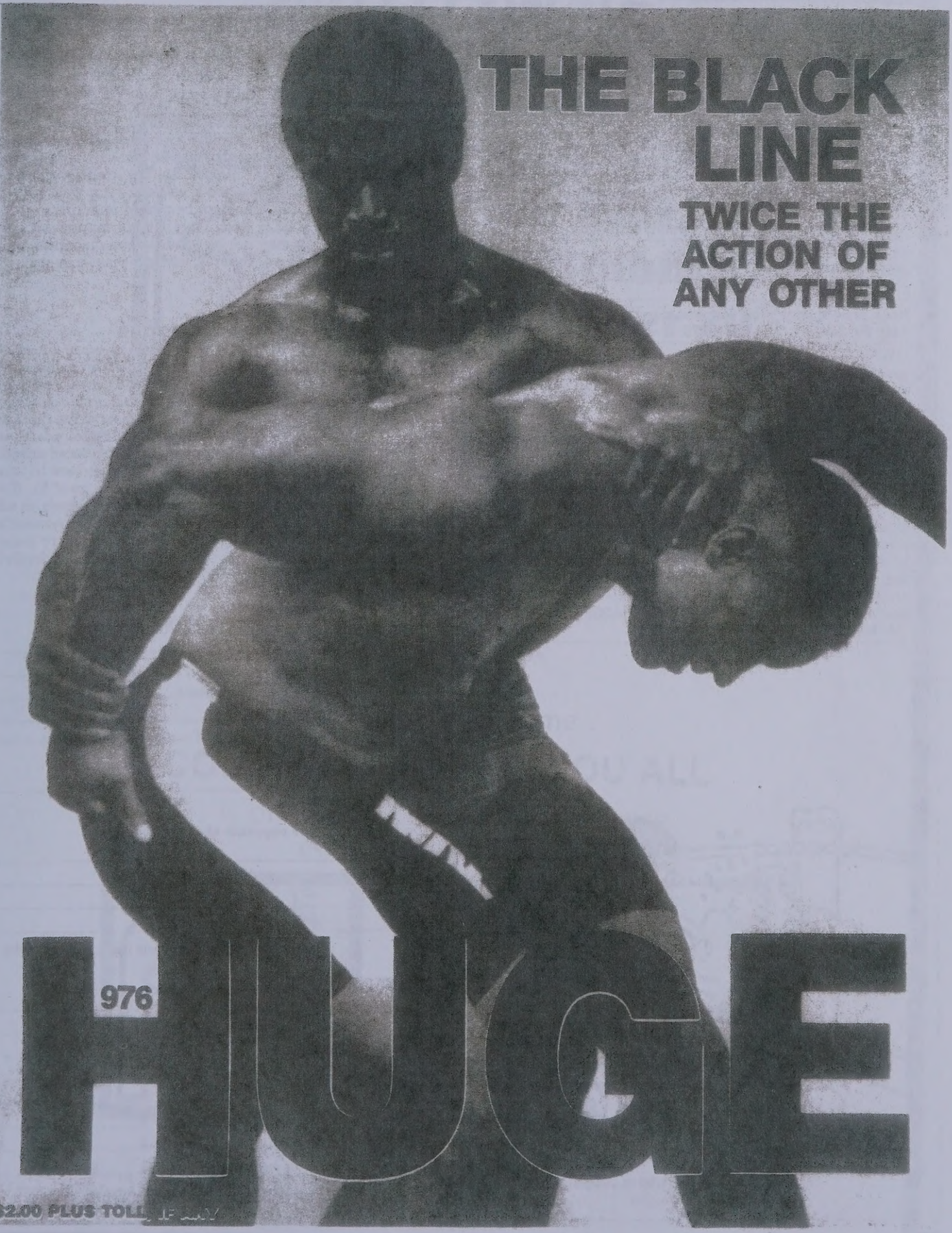
Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

I love dark skin. Mature GWM, 65, seeks caring other for 1-to-1, possible lifemate. Healthy, shy, versatile, non-smoker. Love books, films, music, sharing TLC. Let's explore potentials. Looks unimportant, character is. Letter/photo to Gene, 328 N. Ave. 59, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (6)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Holly-





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Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138.

(7)

Butch GWM, 51, seeks GRA black SFV buddy. 818-766-6033.

(6)

Blond hunk seeks young thin top. Box 75441, LA 90075.6)

European, bi, trim, safe, seeks thick or uncut-endowed. Box 2733, Los Angeles, CA 90078.

(6)

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069.

(7)

Puerto Rican, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs., seeking daytime masculine black-Latins hung fat to please. Willie 213-657-2539.

(6)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779.

(8)

GWM, 50 years old, great shape, nice smooth body, bottom fem. and passive, seeks top, dominant male for steady friendship at my home in northwest San Fernando Valley. A nice, spiritual person like me. No booze, drugs, marrieds or hassle. (I am not a switch-hitter. (Me Jane, you Tarzan, a must.) If interested, please call me at 818-999-1897. Andra.

(E)

Nude talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317.

(E)

Educated BM, 20s, seeks other masculine, mature, brassy, intelligent black males for friendship and fun. Looking for individuals who are well-rounded and enjoy the most of what life has to offer. Open-minded, adaptability a must. No effeminates! Respond with letter/photo. Photo will be returned. Box 18A255, Los Angeles, CA 90018.

(E)



"Maybe you shouldn't have called him a 'nigger faggot'."

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BLK Classifieds

Box 83912

Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

• **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1. If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is strictly confidential and will not appear in your ad.

### Please complete and sign the following:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

### Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

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Deadline for June issue: May 22, 1989.

### Figure cost of ad:

\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ words at 5¢ (employment only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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BLK Box at \$5 per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed (do not send cash) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083



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For Over 20  
Years"**

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A clean place to come . . .

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Keith Medical Group, HIV specialists within a family practice environment, is composed of highly qualified medical practitioners, seasoned technicians and supportive staff. *All committed to treating the whole person, not a series of parts.*

Our expertise has proved that effective HIV/AIDS treatment requires the interaction of many disciplines: Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Disease, Pulmonary Medicine, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Neuropsychology, Nutritional Therapy, Social Work and complete laboratory facilities.

And we have this most comprehensive multispecialty team. All together. With a single dedication. You.

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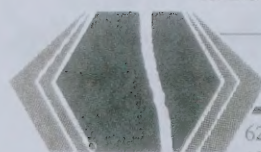
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# BLK

Number 6, May 1989





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# Blk Board

## FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1989

Black and White Men Together/Detroit Anniversary and Midwest Region Network Meeting. Workshops, board meeting, banquet and brunch. Field trip to a Canadian bar. 313-965-4646.

## MONDAY, MAY 1, 1989

AIDS 101 Health Outreach and Training sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project for the next four consecutive Mondays. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. 213-936-4949.

## FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1989

Ayofemi Stowe Folayan will read excerpts from her works. She is co-author of *Talking About Talking* and *The Power to Shape the World*. Page One Bookstore, 966 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 7:30 p.m. 818-798-8694.

Party Animal Night/Cinco de Mayo Party. Door prizes. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-734-8849.

## SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1989

Youth Workshop sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project. Olivett Baptist Church, 976 E. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 213-936-4949.

## SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1989

Bowling outing sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los. Call Diamond for location. 213-738-7394.

Jewel Williams, owner of the Catch One, is celebrating her 50th Birthday with a dinner at Catch One. 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3:30 p.m. dinner and program; 8 p.m.-2 a.m. dancing. \$10 before 8 p.m., \$3 after. Call between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 213-734-8849 for reserved dinner seating.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1989

"Building a Multicultural Organization" will be the topic of discussion at this month's Community Roundtable Breakfast. Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 a.m.

## SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1989

The Clubhouse will celebrate its 13th Anniversary with a gala party. 1296 Upshur St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

## FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

Theater outing to "Harlem Suite" starring Maurice Hines and Melba Moore sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Champagne reception with stars follows performance. Pantages Theater, 6233 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. \$45-85. 213-667-2549.

Black and White Men Together/Youngstown Sixth Anniversary Weekend called "Getting to Know Ourselves." Workshops, reception, picnic, brunch, banquet, party, film and sports. Free housing. May 19-21. For more information, call Don at 216-782-3483 or Bob at 216-747-3624.

## SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1989

Thelma Houston will be among the performers entertaining at the sixth annual Long Beach Lesbian and Gay

Pride Parade and Festival May 20 and 21, 1989. Grand marshall of the event titled, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," is Larry Boxx. Shoreline Aquatic Park, Shoreline Dr. at Pine Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., both days. 213-439-0696.

As part of the continuing "Lesbian Writers Series" at A Different Light Bookstore, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan will read excerpts from her works. She is co-author of *Talking About Talking* and *The Power to Shape the World*. 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. 213-668-0629.

House Party sponsored by Black Jack. Music, dancing, conversation, plus things to eat and drink. Non-sexual. Open to non-Black Jack members. The Franklin Plaza Hotel, 7230 Franklin Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. 213-338-1516.

Black comedian Karen Williams will M.C. an evening of music and comedy celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Women's Alcoholism Center. Also appearing will be jazz vocalist Rhiannon, jazz musician Mimi Foxx and Sara Felder. Complimentary dessert and complimentary non-alcoholic beverages. Free childcare. Interpreted for the hearing impaired. First Congregational Church, Post and Mason Streets, San Francisco, Calif. 8 p.m. \$10-25. 415-282-8900.

"Candidate Night" for Emperor and Empress of the Imperial Court of South Bay. This fundraiser will include appearances by the candidates and a show featuring lip-synching. Annexx, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$3 donation. For more information contact Dana. 213-671-7323.

## SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1989

As part of the continuing "Gay Writers Series" at A Different Light Bookstore, Larry Duplechan will read excerpts from his latest novel, *Tangled Up in Blue*. 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m. 213-668-0629.

Planning Meeting for a Black Lesbian Conference called by an ad hoc committee. Open to all black women. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m. Call Gini for more information. 213-204-3894.

Nude Beach Outing sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call René for location. 213-483-1108.

## SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989

Annual Picnic sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Griffith Park. 3 p.m. Call for location. 213-664-4716.

## SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1989

The Ninth Annual Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together will take place July 2-8, 1989 at the Florida State University Center for Professional Development in Tallahassee, Florida. For more information contact BWMT Tallahassee/Big Bend Florida, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3321. 904-681-9499.

## FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1989

The second biannual Adodi Retreat entitled, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS," will take place July 21-23, 1989 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, a village 30 miles outside Philadelphia. For additional information, contact Larry Hadley at 215-662-1755, Cliff Rawlins at 215-727-1084 or write Adodi, Box 19132, Philadelphia, Penn. 19103.



# Blk Mail

Dear Editor:

It was my impression that BLK would be a publication of good taste until I picked up my first issue and read Revon Kyle Banneker's recent interview with porn "actor" Randy Cochran [BLK, March 1989].

The glorification of pornography and prostitution was appalling and unfortunately reinforced the negative, immoral images so often associated with the homosexual community. Your choice to showcase someone who "sold out" for an easy buck proves where BLK's priorities lie. It was not only disappointing, it was terribly insulting.

Jeff Copeland  
Hollywood, California

Dear Editor:

I'm impressed with your new BLK magazine. Would like to see you continue the Randy Cochran-type interview with black "porno" stars. Please send a gift subscription including the three back issues to the enclosed.

Larry Northan  
Scottsdale, Arizona

Dear Editor:

Is there any way possible to have the enclosed cover photo of Randy Cochran autographed? The article was great and very informative.

J. R. Thompkins  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Editor:

The previous letters to the editor [BLK, March 1989; BLK, April 1989] concerning "the letter" circulated during the [National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership] Conference point to a strategic flaw in the approach of many of our black gay leaders.

The approach so often is (1) "You are going about the business of helping our community all wrong," and (2) "I know what you can do to remedy the situation." While I respect the dedication, and leadership skills, good intentions and guts of our leaders, I believe that this approach has not generally been effective.

Rather than point the finger at others, I suggest that our leaders turn that finger on themselves. It is a very rare instance when I have ever heard our leaders say, "I may be part of the problem; I may need to change; I may need to listen more to others more effectively."

I have a feeling that "the letter" issue is not over. Other issues will likely crop up and remain unsolved if we are not able to admit to our brothers that we made a mistake, to earnestly be willing to rectify the problem, and to accept good intentions of those who err.

Phillip Jones  
Gardena, California

**Blk Mail should be addressed to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.**



*"Conspicuous heterosexualism."*

# BLK

Number 6, May 1989

**Editor and Publisher** Alan Bell

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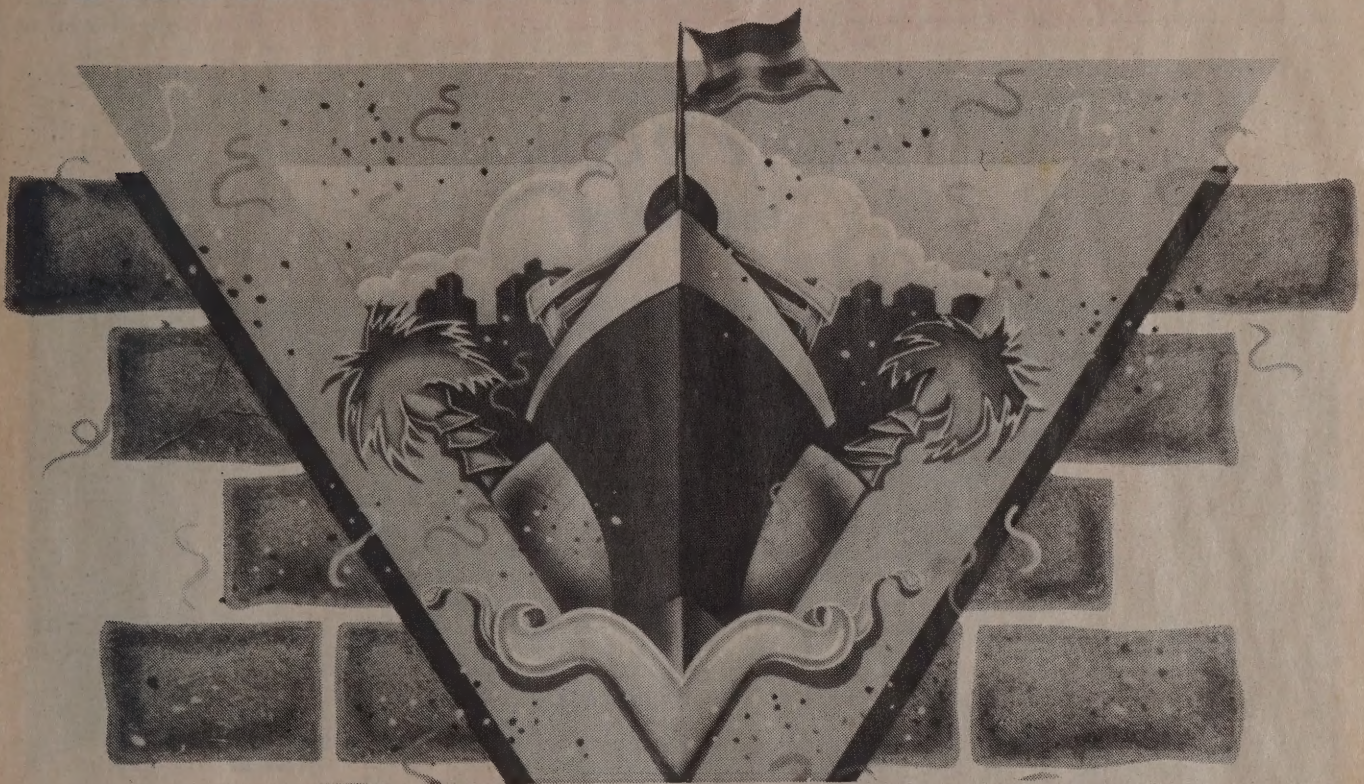
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**Cover: Ayofemi Stowe Folayan. Photo by Bob Finney. Cartoons courtesy Ebony. New captions by BLK.**



# ***Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride***



**6th Annual**

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# Talking about Ayofemi

*Playwright, poet and performer to appear  
in L.A. and Oakland*

**By Mark Haile**



**Robin Podolsky (left) and Ayofemi Stowe Folayan**

Identifying yourself as a black lesbian community activist would not be construed by most people as an act of humility. But for Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, the modesty is real if unconscious, the description, genuine understatement.

Ayofemi Stowe Folayan has been an activist on many fronts—as a black woman, as a lesbian, as a writer and as a performer, mentioning but a few. The play she co-wrote and in which she co-stars with Robin Podolsky, *Talking about Talking*, will be performed on May 7, 1989 at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium, and on June 2, 1989 at Mama Bears Coffeehouse in Oakland. The two-woman piece speaks directly to all people living in an oppressive culture, unwilling to settle for mere survival.

The concept that informs *Talking about Talking* began to take shape following Folayan's participation in the Celebration Theater production of *Pursuit of Happiness* in 1987. The play, an intensely personal piece for Folayan, has gone through several revisions which parallel

her own evolution. The dialogue clearly conveys the development of her own sense of identify as the community around her is seen struggling to define itself.

The long road to self-discovery of Ayofemi Stowe Folayan has been pitted by the experiences that today have become themes in her writings. *In a Different Light*, a newly published anthology of lesbian work, contains a poem by Folayan about the death of her daughter, a poignant expression of grief and of recovery found through the healing power of suffering.

"My writing is a declaration," states Folayan, "There is always some hope—even if you have to ferret it out." This she says while recovering from a hip injury received when she was knocked down during a recent Pro-Choice demonstration at a Mid-Wilshire women's clinic.

Physical restrictions have done little to slow her down. Instead, they have provided her with fresh anecdotes to relate. "I can't physically stand in line to march now, but I can write about it!" she declares. Folayan remembers a



story evolving from her work on the rape hotline, and the experiences that arose from that involvement.

"I believe in the power of being alive. I'm here, and I'm learning to name what is." The dedication shown in Folayan's work could be considered remarkable in the face of her infirmities or of the calamities she has weathered through life.

Raised in Boston by her grandparents, Folayan lost her only brother in a fire. She lets it be known that she was a victim of incest as a child, in the hope that her recovery will motivate other women to seek help in overcoming their own experiences of childhood abuse.

While at Vassar College, Folayan became politicized through her involvement with the student Afro-American Society. When Folayan left Boston for New York, she enrolled in the National Black Theater troupe and began to explore her artistic talents.

It was there that Folayan received training in acting, writing, directing and managing a theater group. "When you're forced to grow, you find out you can do a lot more things than you thought you could," she recalls.

In New York, Folayan discovered that art could fuse with politics. When it was time to make the move to California, she was surprised by the laid back manner of West Coast theater. "If you brought up politics in theater in those days, you were considered strange," she remembers. For more than a decade, Folayan put her politics and creative talent on the shelf while she pursued the comforts of the material world. "I was slowly dying when I was not writing," she admits, "The externals were all okay, but I didn't have me."

Recurring illness brought on depression and isolation. In gaining back her health, Folayan saw a distinct similarity between her situation and that of so many other lesbians of color. The ominous lack of attention to women's health issues— cancer, alcoholism, rape, and lupus, to name a few—rankles her. "I'm going to write about and illuminate these things so we can talk about them. Until we address it and talk about it, we'll stay fearful and isolated," Folayan insists.

After ending her isolation, Folayan went to the far extreme, becoming vocal and visible through her participation in IMRU radio and Celebration Theater, where she was named playwright-in-residence during 1987 and 1988.

"It took me a long time to acknowledge I needed to be active in my life," says Folayan.

"Fe-mi-nist." Folayan intones the word slowly. "There is power in being able to stand up and tell my story. It's an encouraging event for me, to have other women to tell their stories, and to have hope."

"There are not a lot of us [black lesbian feminists] out there," she continues frankly, "telling our stories."

To correct that, Folayan has become involved in the planning of the 1991 National Lesbian Conference, with the aim of making it as inclusive as possible. "I'm real excited about the potential of this conference," she says.

"I'm dedicated to not being one of that small core of people who burn themselves out.

"I'm interested in reaching out to other women who share my existence. I'm a real bridgeworker. We must make these connections."

Folayan finds the lack of an organized black lesbian community in Los Angeles distressing. "It makes me very sad," she concedes, hoping that events at the National Lesbian Conference will constitute the groundwork to help change that.

Folayan goes on to note how few times skills acquired by those active in the community are turned over to the next generation. She voices a concern for preserving

what has been learned to date, as well as capturing the talents of the present for the future.

"Both Audre Lorde and Pat Parker are battling breast cancer," notes Folayan, "I'm trying to pass on what I know; I won't be here forever, but I want to do it responsibly."

In working to preserve her contributions to lesbian and gay culture, Folayan is preparing to adapt *Talking about Talking* for video. She is also excited about a program taped with Audre Lorde and Cheryl Clarke for KPFF's annual Gay Pride Day this coming Fourth of July weekend.

In addition to her current theatrical productions, Folayan is at work on a novel, and has two readings scheduled: one at Page One Bookstore in Pasadena on May 5, 1989 and one at A Different Light Bookstore in Silverlake on May 20, 1989.

Folayan reflects inward for a moment. "So many people think, I'm the only one!...I never had to be ashamed. I could be honest about these things in my life.

"The first step is to acknowledge the effort that it takes to survive. We get wrapped up in what it's like, and not how it can be."

She takes another moment to assess her life. Ayofemi Stowe Folayan: activist, mother, black woman, lesbian, artist, and finishes the thought with a shrug, a smile, and another understatement: "I'm just out there, doing what I do."



Ayofemi Stowe Folayan (center) with authors Pat Parker (left) and Cheryl Clarke prior to a recent reading of their works at California State University, Los Angeles.



# Policing the Task Force

*How and why people of color got kicked off  
a city advisory board*

**By L. Lloyd Jordan**

On April 14, 1982 Ivy Bottini stood before the Los Angeles Police Commission arguing that the voices of the lesbian and gay community needed to be heard down at Parker Center. Among those who stepped up to the mike one by one to back Bottini were people of color representing Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays (APLG), Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles (BWMT/LA) and the Latin Church of Christian Fellowship. They were attesting to the inclusiveness of the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force (GLPATF), of which Bottini was co-chair. That day the Commission recognized the Task Force as its official liaison to the lesbian and gay community.

On April 6, 1989 all persons of color and minority-oriented organizations represented on the Task Force were expelled from membership by the presiding chairman, Marshal Phillips, in the presence of a police department representative. Immediately afterward, Ivy Bottini accepted re-election as co-chair. Also disenfranchised at that meeting were representatives of several organizations who had previously been allowed to vote at Task Force meetings, but who had sided with the dissident minorities in the organization's recent controversy.

What happened between April 1982 and April 1989 at GLPATF to destroy one of the few coalitions functioning in the gay and lesbian community?

Not a lot, actually.

For most of its seven years the Task Force has drawn desultory participation from its members, including its minority members, except for brief periods following some police-related crisis. Two such crises converged about a year and a half ago. A series of assaults on gay men and police raids on Silverlake bars focused attention on the relations between the community and LAPD.

Marshal Phillips, former political vice president of Stonewall Democratic Club, along with several other lesbian and gay activists, demanded accountability from local politicians and the police department. As usual, GLPATF was largely ignored in the community's first reaction. But as negotiations continued GLPATF seemed the logical vehicle for ongoing dialogue with the police. Phillips became Stonewall's representative on the Task Force. He is widely credited with having been instrumental in the police negotiations with Mayor Bradley's and Councilman Mike Woo's offices, and with having helped restore prominence and credibility to GLPATF.

## **Minority Gays Expelled**

However, last December, when the upcoming vacancy of the chairmanship was discussed, neither Phillips nor any other Task Force member expressed a willingness to run for the position. Outgoing chairman Tom Coleman appointed Gabriel Bustamante, a gay aide to Mayor Bradley, and Roger Coggan of Lawyers for Human

Rights (LHR) as members of a nominating committee to recruit new co-chairs.

Apparently, the trouble began when Phillips learned that he was not going to be nominated by the committee, but that a man of color not previously a member of the Task Force was to be nominated. Although Phillips told BLK that GLPATF's by-laws do not permit new or non-members to hold office, no motion was made to declare Marich ineligible on those grounds, nor did anyone object later when Phillips ran on a slate with a brand new member.

Coggan and Bustamante decided that Mario Soliz Marich, a Latino, would make a good candidate. Marich, former co-chair of the No On 96/102 Committee and current administrator of the Neighborhood AIDS Consortium, agreed to run. Coggan and Bustamante contend that Marich's administrative background, past activism and commitment to inclusion of lesbians and gays of color made him exceptionally well-qualified. They also asked Vanessa Place of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) to run for the co-chairwomanship.

At the January meeting, the nominating committee's report was not voted upon when Phillips made it clear he felt cheated out of nomination by the committee. Phillips, and Stonewall member Don Hunt, had already explained their concerns to Stonewall's executive committee, members of which began soliciting support for Phillips within and outside the Task Force.

Marich's supporters also began soliciting support for the February election. But Place agreed to run with Phillips as a slate, prompting the nominating committee to recruit Carol Anderson of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to run independently. Thus, in February, voters perceived the choice to be between Phillips and Place or Marich and Anderson, all newcomers to GLPATF except Phillips.

Both sides stacked the meeting with supporters, some of whom paid dues on the spot and indicated what organizations they were "representing." No one was effectively challenged because it had already been discovered that according to long-ignored by-laws, only one organization was technically eligible to vote. BWMT/LA's GLPATF representative, who is African American, has not attended GLPATF meetings in months, and APLG's membership seems to have lapsed some time ago. Phillips and Place won a narrow victory.

## **Arbitration Attempt Fails**

But at the following month's meeting, fewer of Phillips's supporters showed up and a motion to invalidate the election and hold another one in April passed. Phillips stormed out, while Place continued chairing the meeting, after which she resigned to encourage compromise. Marich's supporters asked Gay and Lesbian Com-





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munity Service Center Executive Director Torie Osborn to mediate between the two sides.

But when Bottini arrived at the mediation conference representing Stonewall (of which she is president), she maintained that she agreed to be present on condition that no reconciliation requiring Phillips to run again for co-chair was possible: His position was not subject to negotiation, she insisted. Although Marich's representatives denied agreeing to this condition, they did agree to propose that their bloc recruit a woman of color to run for the co-chairwomanship, and failing that, a man of color would be allowed to run. Later, Marich's supporters agreed to support this compromise.

But Bottini now maintains that she never agreed that if no woman could be found to run, a man of color would be deemed acceptable. Since this stance assured Phillips his seat, while eliminating the possibility that Marich or either of the other two (male) Latinos in the organization could be elected, the compromise immediately fell through. Instead, Phillips, claiming still to be co-chair, called Marich and offered to appoint him head of an outreach committee to address concerns of people of color. Marich refused.

On April 7 when Task Force members arrived expecting a new election, they were greeted by Phillips wielding the gavel along with a parliamentarian and two sergeants-at-arms, all Stonewall members. Only representatives of those organizations which had paid \$25 in dues, submitted organizational by-laws, certified a minimum of ten members, identified their official meeting place and designated their representatives in writing were permitted to vote. Only Phillips's supporters, all seated in a line at the front of the meeting instead of in the customary circle, were able to produce the required documents, having been warned in advance.

Stonewall's parliamentarian then declared that, not being members, Marich's supporters had no right to be heard unless Phillips chose to grant them that privilege. After a motion to allow Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos to retain its membership was disallowed by the chair, Marich and most of his supporters walked out. The police representative witnessed the entire dispute; Phillips was the only person present who knew who he was. Thereupon, Bottini was elected acting co-chair, both of GLPATF's spokespersons now being Stonewall members.

#### A New Task Force to Form?

Marich's supporters have met since then to decide how to respond to the last meeting's *coup d'état*. While some wished to pursue the matter, others felt that it was pointless. Instead, support seems to be building for formation of a new, more inclusive organization to address police-related issues.

Meanwhile, Phillips is accustoming himself to holding the reins of authority. On behalf of the Task Force, he has already met with the Police Commission demanding, ironically, that LAPD be required to *actively* recruit lesbian and gay police officers. Having talked with Deputy Mayor Mike Gage, he is pushing for a lesbian or gay police commissioner. Also ironically, it is the lone black member of the Commission whose term expires in July, and who is expected to be re-appointed unless he chooses to step down. Nonetheless, Phillips is recruiting nominees.

#### Uneasy Allies

Every so often an incident occurs which dramatizes the fact that what Anglo and minority lesbians and gays have in common is shared oppression, not shared values; a common enemy, not a common community. It is becom-

ing clear that Anglos, at least, are increasingly acting on their awareness of this fact to protect what they perceive as their legitimate, exclusively gay-focused agenda.

Although none of the people of color involved has charged Stonewall with racism *per se*, there is a clear difference in the way the two sides perceive the racial issue. Phillips and his defenders assert that no ethnic considerations are involved in the dispute because their *intent* has not been to exclude minorities, but to prevent "outsiders" from taking over GLPATF and its agenda. The outsiders, they feel, merely happen to include people of color with a minority-focused agenda. Minorities feel that if the *effect* of Stonewall's actions is to exclude people of color and their concerns, when there are other options available, racial insensitivity is clearly at issue.

"We were active in getting [GLPATF] credibility and afterwards, when they didn't like how we acted, they kicked us out and kept the credibility," commented Phill Wilson, former co-chair of BWMT/LA who, however, believes that GLPATF's scanty record of accomplishment makes the organization not worth fighting over.

Stonewall has recently experienced a renaissance of visibility and influence since its eclipse in the early eighties. Officially chartered to promote lesbian and gay interests in the Democratic Party, it has broadened its charge to defense of those interests on virtually all fronts, including police-community relations. Much of its recent rise can be attributed to the tenacious energy and effective fundraising of Marshal Phillips. Without any visible means of support, Phillips has made enormous donations of money and time to Stonewall. That is probably why the club has made of Phillips's desire to be GLPATF co-chair a *casus belli*. But it is also an opportunity for Stonewall to flex its new-found organizational muscle within the community.

#### Both Sides at Fault

When Phillips complained of not being nominated by the GLPATF committee, Stonewall leaders opted to overwhelm the organization rather than suggest that Phillips nominate himself and lobby fellow Task Force members to vote for him on the strength of his record.

However, it is also possible that they suspected so straightforward a tactic would not work despite Phillips's known strengths, because of what some regard as his equally well-known weaknesses. Indeed, both Stonewall and the nominating committee seem to have tiptoed around the fundamental problem with Phillips's candidacy: Phillips seems to be regarded by many gay activists as insensitive, unpredictable and heavy-handed. Nor is this the first time he is reported to have been upset by an organization's failure to nominate him for an office he felt he deserved.

In an article on the current dispute based partially on interviews she held with Phillips, *News* editor Sandy Dwyer describes him as "making some unprintable statements regarding" an opponent and as hanging up the phone in her face when asked an unwelcome question. During the arbitration meeting, Osborn is reported as having warned Bottini that she had heard mostly negative assessments of Phillips, whom she had never met, adding, "and where there's smoke, there's usually fire." At Stonewall, members asked that precedent be broken and that he not be allowed to chair the portion of the meeting for which he, as political vice president, was then responsible.

"Phillips is inappropriate as co-chair due to his inability to relate to large segments of the community," said Wilson. Dwyer quotes Phillips explaining why he believes he was not nominated, "I always thought Gab-



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riel Bustamente was Italian. It turns out he's Latin. Roger Coggan always likes Latin men...Roger Coggan did this to thwart me. Roger is a lawyer and a very slick one...Coggan knew I was destined to be co-chair...the Task Force to a man, knew it. Little Mario just happens to be Hispanic."

Apparently fearful of the kind of co-chair who hangs up on the press, and recalling Phillips's stated opposition to GLPATF's doing outreach to minority gays as a priority, the nominating committee chose to look elsewhere for co-chair candidates. But their failure to tell Phillips upfront why he was not nominated led to Stonewall's conviction that he was being blackballed out of spite by Coggan, a member of MECLA, which Stonewall may soon supplant as gay L.A.'s "power pack." Thus Stonewall leaders insist that the issue of outreach to lesbians and gays of color is a red herring, not a serious concern of the nominating committee or of Marich.

In Stonewall's April newsletter, editor Tom Collins (who recently joined GLPATF representing the Valley Business Alliance) states, "It is only too bad that some people—and yes, I *am* impugning their motives—would apparently sacrifice the Task Force on the altar of their own powergrabbing. Even worse...is that shrill cries of "racism" should be used to manipulate the situation for private purposes and personal gain."

"Unfortunately, the legitimate term 'people of color' was dishonestly misused by a political faction composed of people who were white, by and large, against their opponents in an overheated election campaign," said Phillips, reading from a prepared statement. "The Task Force has always had ethnic representation and no attempt has ever been made to exclude *anyone* on the basis of race. The real issue was competition over the office of co-chair."

Similar arguments have been made repeatedly by his supporters, and are probably sincerely believed. Perhaps such comments would seem more convincing if other equally relevant facts were not invariably omitted, for instance, the pact to remind only Phillips's supporters to be documented in strict accordance with the by-laws prior to the April meeting.

Insofar as Stonewall activists believe that some of Marich's group may be committed to inclusion of minority gays and issues, they seem also to genuinely believe that such a focus is an inappropriate usurpation of GLPATF's agenda. "The majority of these people have never done anything at all—nothing whatsoever—to deal with the Task Force agenda rather than their own or to accomplish *its* purposes rather than theirs," Collins writes.

Some who attended the March meeting felt that proof of this came when outreach to minorities was voted the primary goal of the Task Force on a motion by Marich. But Marich says that when a five-point list of the year's priorities was presented to GLPATF to approve, minority outreach was omitted. Marich's supporters voted to make outreach number one on the list to put on record their feeling that it had been most neglected and deserved immediate attention.

Nonetheless, such an action was bound to be misconstrued. Anglos become active in the movement to promote their civil rights as gays. While they pay lip service to other agendas and may, out of goodwill or guilt, divert some of their energy to other struggles, many feel ripped off when compelled to allocate significant effort to problems they did not become activists to address. Because lesbians and gays of color are inhibited in living healthy gay lives by racism as much as by homophobia, it is difficult to respond to the two "isms" as though they are

unconnected. It feels diminishing to accept as legitimate the Anglo need for minorities to subordinate the battle against racism to the battle against homophobia when interacting with them.

### Strategies for the Future

For social clubs, by-laws are a formality. But for coalitions, such as GLPATF, by-laws are treaties among allies whose shared interests are limited. Such by-laws must be carefully drafted and adhered to diligently. People of color need to pay scrupulous attention to these matters because sooner or later, when the priorities and resources of the coalition are in dispute, the by-laws are likely to be used by those most familiar with them to get their way.

It is therefore hard to understand why Marich's supporters came to the April meeting without their credentials in hand, given that they had been tipped off that the other side was gathering its documents. Naïveté under such circumstances is, at best, costly and at worst, fatal. One must wonder whether or not lesbians and gays of color are serious about protecting their interests when they choose not to prepare for a switch in tactics by their adversaries. It is, of course, legitimate to refuse to play a dirty game, if there is the willingness to stand on the sidelines and watch the action go by. But it is a waste of time to play hard ball and then throw the game.

Aside from sanctioning Stonewall's purge, a decision by Marich's coalition to found a new task force will tax the resources of minority-oriented organizations. These organizations have not only borne the responsibility of supplying the people of color whose presence helped legitimize GLPATF, but they have stretched themselves thin trying to respond to the same need in other predominantly Anglo organizations. When white members lose interest, their organizations have tended to allow their GLPATF membership to lapse. But when people of color burn out or move on, their absence causes gay coalitions to blanch noticeably. This makes minority-oriented organizations appear more indifferent or slipshod than they are, when in reality white organizations are not held to account for seldom recruiting people of color as their representatives. The solution to this ongoing problem will rarely lie in increasing the responsibilities carried by minority activists. Yet forming new organizations when old ones are unresponsive does just that.

Moreover, all gay organizations need to adjust to the fact that in a city, county and state soon facing re-apportionment, wherein people of color are rapidly becoming a majority, advancement of the gay cause requires that they be inclusive and responsive to ethnic concerns regardless of their agendas or levels of personal commitment. They also need to know that minority lesbians and gays are willing to use the growing leverage afforded them by changing demographics.

Finally, it is important to note that although this controversy has swirled around racial issues, the factions involved have *not* split exclusively along racial lines. Representatives of the GLAAD, LHR, AIDS Research and Education, the International Archives, Harvey Milk Democrats, the Peace and Freedom Party's Gay and Lesbian Caucus, USC's Gay and Lesbian Student Assembly and Mayor Tom Bradley's representative, along with other individuals, have been consistently and often courageously supportive of the need for inclusion in GLPATF. This is a fracas among uneasy allies who are fighting side-by-side in twin wars against homophobia and AIDS. There must be both respect for differences in tactics, and appreciation for cooperation.



# Blk Community News

## BWMT/LA Told: Hospice to Locate in South Central

By Mark Haile and Alan Smithee

LOS ANGELES—Addressing the Los Angeles chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT/LA) last month, Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Hospice Foundation (AHF), announced plans for AHF to establish a new hospice in South Central Los Angeles. The facility is to be located adjacent to the King-Drew Medical Center.

AHF currently operates Elysian Park's Chris Brownlie Hospice, named for an active member of BWMT/LA. The hospice, a residence for PWAs in the final stages of AIDS, will be the first opened in a black community in Los Angeles. Details about funding for the facility were not immediately available.

The Brownlie hospice is funded through a combination of government grants and private donations.

Weinstein's announcement came as part of a keynote address delivered at BWMT/LA's annual Installation Banquet. Installed as officers for the 1989-90 term were Guy Hubbard as black co-chair, René Seidel as white co-

chair, secretary John Dick, treasurer Les Amer, and members-at-large Diamond Murray and Marc Denton.

Jewel Williams and Bobby Smith were given special awards at the dinner, held at the Hyatt Hotel in West Hollywood. Williams received the BWMT Lifetime Achievement Award "for tireless work in the lesbian and gay community." She was cited for her fundraising efforts on behalf of many organizations, and for frequently offering the Catch One, which she owns, as a site for meetings and events.

Bobby Smith, a longtime BWMT/LA member, was the third recipient of the Steven L. Whitfield Memorial Award, presented in memory of the first member of BWMT/LA to succumb to AIDS. Smith has served, along with Jewel Williams, on the board of the Minority AIDS Project since it was founded in 1985. He was also recently honored as the only openly gay man to be included among the *L.A. Weekly's* list of "Los Angeles Heroes of the 1980s," for his dedication to providing care and services to people with AIDS.

## CDC Lists March Stats on AIDS Cases in U.S.

ATLANTA (AP)—The latest statistics on AIDS in the United States as reported by the national Centers for Disease Control are reported below. These statistics are through March 1989, and have been rounded to the nearest whole percent. Cumulative totals are for AIDS cases reported since June 1981, and include 75 cases subsequently found to have occurred prior to that date.

### Number of Cases

Total cases reported since June 1981: 90,990.

Cases, last 12 months: 21,103.

Total deaths: 52,435, or 58 percent of all cases.

### Transmission Categories

Homosexual or bisexual males: 55,005, or 60 percent.

Intravenous drug abusers: 17,999, or 20 percent.

Homosexual male and drug abusers: 6,407, or 7 percent.

Heterosexual cases: 3,962, or 4 percent.

Transfusion or blood cases: 2,417, or 3 percent.

Hemophilia patients: 952, or 1 percent.

Children of parents with AIDS or at risk: 1,188, or 1 percent.

Other or undetermined transmission cause: 3,080, or 3 percent.

### Race

Cases among whites: 51,987, or 57 percent.

Cases among blacks: 24,328, or 27 percent.

Cases among Hispanics: 13,811, or 15 percent.

Cases among Asians or Pacific Islanders: 540, or 1 percent.

Cases among American Indians or Alaskan natives: 107, or 0 percent.

### Age

Childhood cases (under age 13): 1,489, or 2 percent.



BWMT/LA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and Catch One owner Jewel Williams with BWMT/LA co-chair Guy Hubbard.



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## Group Plans Outreach to Lesbians of Color

SAN FRANCISCO—The planning committee for the Second West Coast Conference and Celebration of Old Lesbians [60 and older], announced the formation of a Women of Color Contact Committee. Its purpose is to make sure the special concerns of lesbians of all races and cultures are given attention both before and during the conference.

The program for the conference, which is now being developed, will include special interest workshops, "speak out" (open microphone) periods, arts, entertainment and other features.

The assembly is scheduled to be held August 4 through August 6, 1989, at San Francisco State University's new Conference Center. Interested lesbians of color can contact either Marge 415-724-3185 or Dottie 415-525-6198 or write to West Coast Celebration II, Box 31787, San Francisco CA 94131.

## ACT-UP Plans Meeting

LOS ANGELES—The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/Los Angeles will host a "Day of Education" as the first of two spring events which focus on access to health care in the AIDS epidemic. The first event, which is being called "Pushed to the Limit: AIDS and the Health Care Crisis," will take place Saturday May 6, 1989 at 1:30 p.m. in West Hollywood's Plummer Park.

According to the group, the afternoon will consist of panel presentations and informal discussions, and "will address the state of the epidemic, barriers to care, and possible alternatives to the current fragmented and inefficient health care system."

Specialists will present the latest epidemiological information about AIDS within the gay male and people of color communities, and will discuss treatment options, private and public health care coverage, alternatives to conventional care, and the experience with comprehensive health care plans in the United States and other countries.

## NAN Announces Execs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The board of directors of the National AIDS Network (NAN) announced recently the members of its newly elected seven-member executive committee.

Richard Dunne, executive director of Gay Men's Health Crisis Inc., of New York, remains as chairman until June. The chair then will shift to Timothy Wolfred, Ph.D., executive director of San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Rashidah Lorraine Hassan, R.N., co-founder and executive director of Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues of Philadelphia, is the new vice-chair of the board. Eric Engstrom, executive director of the Minneapolis-based Minnesota AIDS Project, is secretary of the board. Jim Graham, administrator of the Whitman-Walker Clinic of Washington, D.C. is the board's treasurer.

Other executive committee members are Marie M. Saint CyrDelpe, M.S.W., executive director of the Women and AIDS Resource Network of New York, and Phill Wilson, founder and chair of the Los Angeles-based Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.



## BGLLF Slates Benefit

LOS ANGELES—The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is sponsoring a benefit theater outing to see "Harlem Suite," starring Maurice Hines and Melba Moore. The event, which includes a champagne reception following the performance with both stars in attendance, will take place at the Pantages Theater May 19, 1989 at 8 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will be used to help fund the effort to bring openly gay black Simon Nkoli, an anti-apartheid activist, to Los Angeles.

"Simon Nkoli has committed his life and in fact placed his life at great risk to free both gay and lesbian black people in South Africa," said Phill Wilson, BGLLF chair. "We are humbled at the opportunity to sponsor this benefit as the first step in bringing him to Los Angeles."

"Nkoli's struggles are testament to the courage and spirit of gay and lesbian and black people around the world," Wilson added.

Nkoli is founder of the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Whittingham and co-founder of the Gay Association of South Africa.

## Adodi, BEBASHI Plan Weekend Philly Retreat

PHILADELPHIA—Adodi Philadelphia, the support group for black gay men established in 1986, has announced plans for its second biannual retreat, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS," to be held Friday, July 21 through Sunday, July 23, 1989 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The retreat is being co-sponsored by Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues, a Philadelphia-based AIDS education and information agency.

"These are extremely difficult times for all black gay men in this country," stated Clifford Rawlins, Adodi founder. "While racism and homophobia continue to be major obstacles to be dealt with, the devastation that AIDS is creating in our community makes our situation all the more critical."

"The primary purpose of these retreats," he adds, "is to provide an opportunity for black gay men, especially any of us who have tested positive or are living with an AIDS diagnosis to come together in a supportive environment to share our feelings and to learn from each other. By the end of the retreat, we hope that everyone will leave having enhanced their skills for improving the quality of their lives."

The anticipated 100 participants will be offered a variety of workshops and experiential exercises dealing with AIDS and other health-related matters, spirituality, creativity, culture, relationships, personal financial management, building political power and legal issues. A grant application is currently being considered by a Philadelphia community foundation to provide a stipend of \$250 to each workshop facilitator.

In addition to the recreational activities afforded by the facilities and rural setting at Fellowship Farm, participants can also enjoy a dance party and a special performing arts program scheduled as part of the retreat.

The first Adodi retreat, "Self-Esteem—Loving Ourselves through the 80s," was held Thanksgiving weekend 1987 and attracted 50 men from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia, New York, Illinois, Virginia and Mississippi.

## Unity Fellowship Church A Church For All People

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# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

SUNDAYS IN SPRING ARE MEANT FOR strolls in the park, fancy new bonnets and declarations of love. So nobody should have been surprised, but everybody *was* when, during a recent Sunday morning church service, one of the worshipers began telling fellow churchgoers that Cupid's arrow had finally pierced his heart. As it happens, the church was **Unity Fellowship** in L.A., the man was **Carl Bean**, Unity's minister and probably America's most famous black AIDS activist, and the announcement that he had found love was delivered from the pulpit. No one was more surprised by the public revelation than Rev's intended, **Eugene Cornelius**, past prez of Chicago's NCBLG chapter, who was literally so swept away with the oohs, aahs and congratulations of the congregation that Rev was left on bended knee, and no one remembers how or if 'Nelius accepted the pastor's proposal. Some said it wasn't the proper place, time or manner. Maybe not, but it was bold, beautiful and very, very black. Love on, Rev!...In New York, Soho's New Museum just finished showcasing the controversial oils of **Robert Colescott**, now *en route* to Seattle for a May 20 through July 15 exhibit. Colescott, who hails from Oakland, studied in Paris and did time in Egypt, has infuriated some African Americans with his satiric portrayals of blacks from old ads à la **Aunt Jemima** and **Uncle Ben**. Honestly, how would black folks ever have survived if we hadn't had more sense of humor than the current Guardians of Political Correctitude are willing to allow us nowadays? Mama always said, "Laughter heals, children!"...Brains—and egos—are bustin' out all over. Three metropoli now have self-styled black, gay "think tanks"; Chicago's **Group Dialogue**, L.A.'s **Salon Noir** and D.C.'s **African American Collective**. Why don't y'all get off your precious brains—er, buns—and *do* something. Better yet, just get *over* yourselves...Also in Chi-

cago, friends tell us, is the hottest African American same-sex scene seen. **Jeffrey's Pub** and the **Rialto** are the two friendliest hangouts, but the **411 Club** and **Martin's Den** have more dance space and more women on the premises, while **Club LaRay** wins the trophy for the being the biggest black gay dance bar in the Midwest, with multiple everything—shows, videos and card games. Among the private clubs (in descending order of female membership), **Executive Sweet**, **Friends, Inc.** and **Chieftains** are still going strong...But in Eve's half-eaten, sin-ridden Big Apple, street scene patrons are all adither since the **Metropolitan** (aka the **Opera House**) was demolished and some of the 3rd Avenue pornshops closed down. Okay, for those of you who *insist* on living dangerously, we'll spill this T once only: the bookstores on 42nd Street, and the kind of traffic they draw, are still flourishing, even though the **Barracks** baths closed two years ago. But the **Mt. Morris** tubs in Harlem are still overflowing (grab your rubbers!). At the **Ascot Theatre** on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx, hets head upstairs, gays go down, and watch what you grab in the backroom; *les filles de joie* are as apt to be conducting business in the dark with their johns as are hustlers with theirs. Lunchtime near City Hall is said to be delicious and nutritious downstairs in **St. Ann's Bookstore**; if you watch what you eat. Remember: safe sex, guys...Out in L.A., it was lovely running into **Jerry** and **Roger** at **Griff's**, 'cuz the former so seldom lets the latter out. But there they were, cooing and growling at each other as in years of yore...It's been such an unexpected hassle trying to get some of L.A.'s gay establishments to carry **BLK** that it was a surprise and a pleasure when **One Way** owner **Brett Murray** not only welcomed and encouraged us but invited our readership in to view his new, specially commissioned **Tom of Finland** poster, which features both black and white male figures...Finally, kisses and kudos to **Jewel Williams** who always shows what can be done if you care. When you walk into Jewel's **Catch One** you practically stumble over the **Minority AIDS Project's** info booth and staff. No safe sex lit buried in dark corners, or brochures tossed atop cigarette machines at the **Catch**. This lady means to save lives—and does!

"I'm going to work,  
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Gilbert's house.  
He gives better head  
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# Blk Market

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday, Rev. Carl Bean. May all your hopes and wishes come true. Love, always. Your number one guy, Gene. (6)

Happy 50th, Jewel. May you have many more. Gene (6)

The whole city of L.A. wishes you, Von, a "safe" trip out of the country and a happy return. We love you. (6)

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BLK needs an artist to draw single-panel cartoons. Need not write captions. No experience necessary, but must be talented. Call 213-410-0808. Or send sample of work to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

BLK needs a librarian to construct an index of articles that have appeared in previous issues. No experience necessary. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Registered nurse. Full time. No experience necessary, but AIDS-related experience helpful. Call Lauren at 213-936-4949, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Or send resume to Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019. (6)

Volunteer Coordinator. Full time. Ability to work well with people. Culturally sensitive. Good oral and written skills. Call Lauren at 213-936-4949, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Or send resume to Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019. (6)

Messenger/driver needed for consortium of three companies. Full time days. Beeper provided. Must be dependable, have economical car and clean driving record. Bring proof of insurance and DMV printout to interview. Call Bobby. 213-667-2549. (6)

AIDS Nursing Care: RNs, LVNs, CNAs, all shifts. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (6)

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

## ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS, ARC, HIV+ social group. 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Castro area, San Francisco. Make friends or find a lover. No \$. Free personals list. Call Michael. 415-255-0614. (6)

Secular Recovery Anonymous/12 Step†, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (7)

San Diego AIDS Project craves black input. Call 619-543-0300. (7)

Nechama Jewish AIDS education, advocacy, referral. 213-653-8313. (6)

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GBM looking for GM to share new 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhome, all luxury amenities. Must be neat, employed and non-smoker. Chino/Pomona area. \$400 plus 1/2 utilities. 714-628-2443. (6)

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## PERSONALS—EASTERN U.S.

Where have all the older GBM gone? Sincere GWM seeks friend/lover. Box 502, Kenmore, Boston, MA 02215. (8)

GBM, 30, 6'2", 210 lbs., masculine, monogamous, nice-looking, New York City, seeks Puerto Rican, Dominican, South American man, 30-40, nationwide for friendship, relationship. Write with photo. Michael Guthrie, Box 684083, Corona-A, NY 11368. (6)

Attractive GWM, deep blue eyes, beard and moustache, 5'9", seeks masculine GBM who knows himself. Honest, sincere and a good sense of humor. Write with photo. Bruce, Box 2291, Meriden, CT 06450. (8)

Total concrete structure along south Texas Rio Grande available to small-assed, AIDS-tested, dope-free, sex-within-house-only, honest youths. Box 475, Big Pine Key, FL 33043. (6)

Blk male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53 years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek blk male the same, or active. 40 to 70. No drugs, feds, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, NJ



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#### PERSONALS—CENTRAL U.S.

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Attractive GWM, 27, seeks handsome, straight-appearing GBM. I'm tall dark and slim; professional; equally enjoy home and nightlife. Prefer tall and muscular, fun-loving guys. Box 486, Danville, IL 61834. (8)

Gay white mid-westerner, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., looking for black men for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (8)

WM, 50, seeks BM, any age, for sincere intimate relationship. No drugs. F/A/P. No G. Anxious to please you and be friends. Bill, Box 9645, Minneapolis, MN 55458. (8)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

#### PERSONALS—WESTERN U.S.

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (6)

Seeking GM, any race, 18-28, under size 30 waist. Must want sincere, lasting, intense, monogamous, sweet, kind, loving, caring relationship with feelings, not material things and muscles. I'm white, 35, stocky, 5'11", 190. I'll send letter, photo. Very educated, warm, multi-talented. Box 71850, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (6)

I am a 26 year old slightly heavyset black man with a handsome face who is totally straight, but craves a rough and tough black stud to break me in the gay life. I am financially secure, have a nice house and car and also a nice girlfriend, but I'm missing out on something. I would only go with a "black man" who acts black. No "oreos." I also will only go with an attractive man. No fat out-of-shapes or drug users. I am very passionate. I have yet to find a man who can control my high sexual needs. I only want black men who are 10" or more. No sissies or girl-acting men. If you are 25-35 years old and are over 5'9" tall and fit the bill, write me. John, Box 8340, Inglewood, CA 90308. (6)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hollywood, CA 91607. (8)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, CA 90004. (11)

Looking for dark, hairy, tall, attractive, nice build, black or Latin-type, between 30-50 years. You must be profes-

sional, spiritual, sincere and romantic, and sexually be G/A or F/A/P (safe sex). Nipple play is nice. I am tall, slim, 6'2", 170, 36 years, blond, tan, green-eyed, health-oriented, nice build, G/P. Exchange of photos a must. Larce, 2407 Wilshire Blvd., Box 285, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (7)

Affectionate W/M, 38, 5'3", 128#, blond/green, seeking G/B, W man in his mid-30s who has capacity for love and commitment, educated, self-sufficient, healthy, attractive and willing to share all with his equal. Photo and phone to Box 33834, San Diego, CA 92103. (6)

GWM, mid-years bodybuilder stud (body of 25 weight-lifter ...better!) "great" pecs, wild in the sack (make you groan and burn!), masculine rugged-looking, hot, seeks GBM, bodybuilder or surf body (no plumps!). Photo/phone. Danny, Box 11658 Chandler Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601. I dig massaging (using oil!) (7)

TLC for gentle BM. Want a natural high from a warm, loving guy? Tall, slim WM, 43, HIV negative, seeks slim, or average built BM under 45. Interests: travel, photography, classical, gospel music, the arts. No drugs. Safe & sane sex. Write 11020 Ventura Blvd., Box 118, Studio City, CA 91604. (6)

Good-looking black athlete, 31, top, masculine, muscular, moustache, seeks younger, masculine, muscular, randy white boys who are bottom, streetwise and live for safe, clean fun. Serious replies only. 619-291-7834. (8)

Handsome GWM, 35, tall muscular, lean, seeks very muscular black man for passion with future. William 415-431-2656. (6)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond, beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. (7)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disappointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

Good-looking, GBM, 6'4", 36, 220 lbs., fair, bearded, professional, stalking articulate cuddle-bear, beefy and bearded (well, a moustache'll do) who will savor and succor, challenge and cherish, explore frontiers and frottage. Nothing easy sought or offered here, though a bed buddy would appeal: I'm uncertain if I'm focused or generous enough to be anyone's lover. Domestic, I'm not. Being intense, analytical and verbal, similar types attract; others beware. But I do love to laugh. If I sound like the stray pet you've been looking for, write Alex, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-237, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (7)

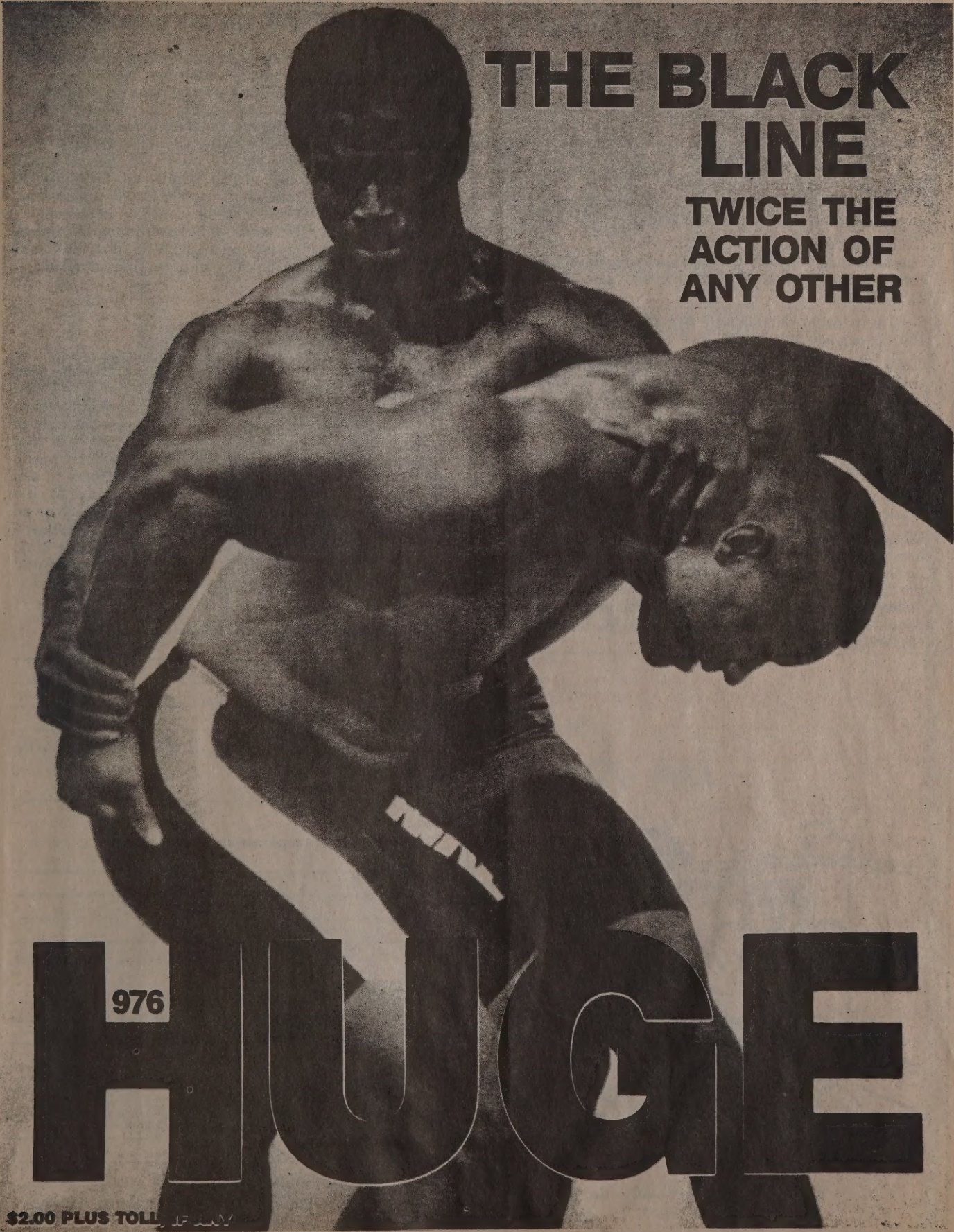
Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

I love dark skin. Mature GWM, 65, seeks caring other for 1-to-1, possible lifemate. Healthy, shy, versatile, non-smoker. Love books, films, music, sharing TLC. Let's explore potentials. Looks unimportant, character is. Letter/photo to Gene, 328 N. Ave. 59, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (6)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Holly-





# THE BLACK LINE

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ACTION OF  
ANY OTHER

976

# HUGO

\$2.00 PLUS TOLL IF ANY



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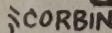
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"Maybe you shouldn't have called him a 'nigger faggot'."

## HOW TO GET INTO THE BLK MARKET FREE

• **Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

• **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

• All other ads take the rate of 25 cents per word.

• **Box number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK box for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

• **Replying to a BLK box.** Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

## BLK Class

Los Angeles

les and regulations. A word is any g

• **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1. If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is strictly confidential and will not appear in your ad.

**Please complete and sign the following:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):**

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**Deadline for June issue: May 22, 1989.**

**Figure cost of ad:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal)      \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 5¢ (employment only)      \$\_\_\_\_\_

Cost to run ad one month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone verification at \$1 (if required) \$

BLK Box at \$5 per month \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed (do not send cash) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083



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**"Serving the  
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Community  
For Over 20  
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A fun place to come . . .

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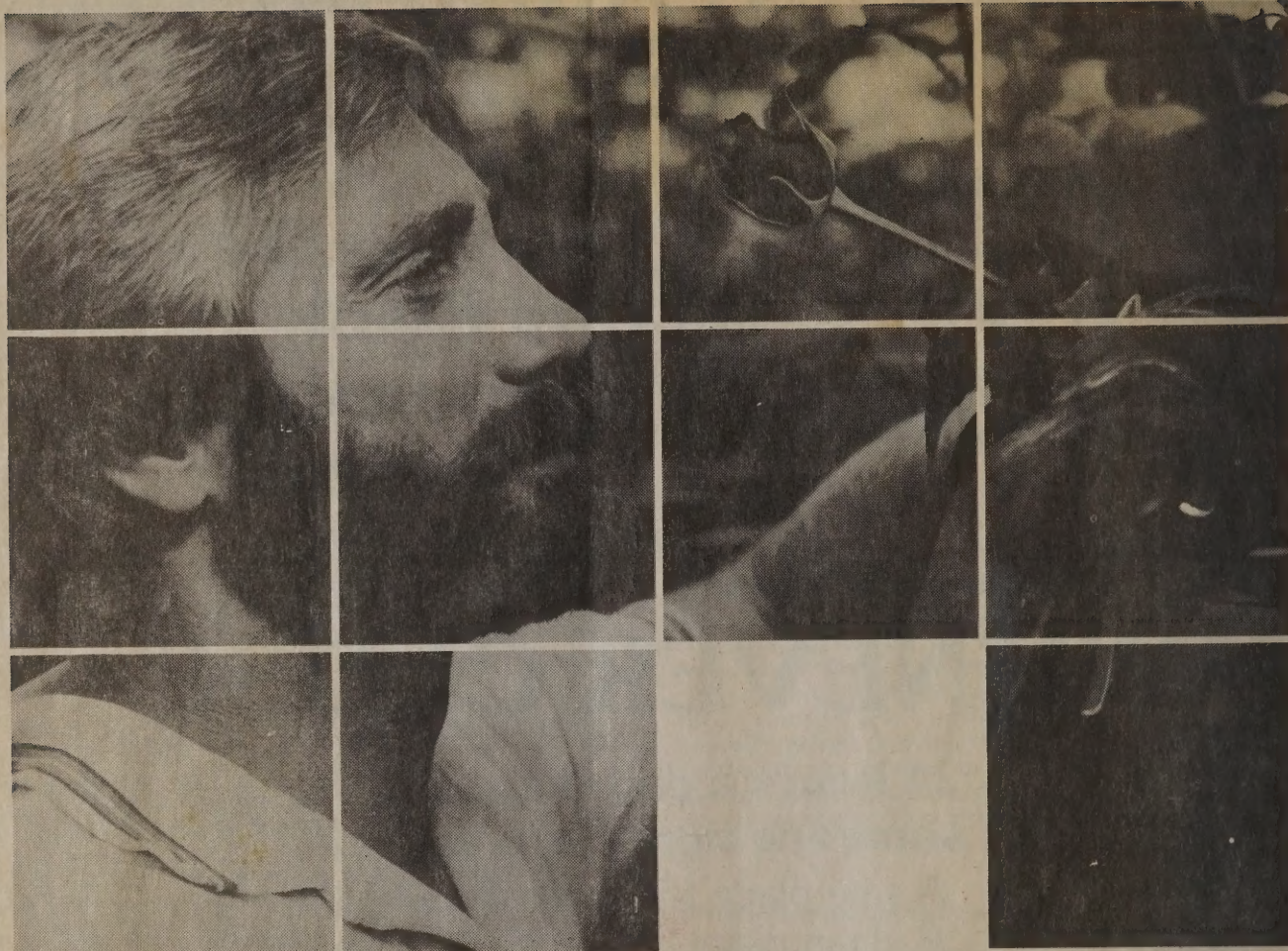
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Our expertise has proved that effective HIV/AIDS treatment requires the interaction of many disciplines: Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Disease, Pulmonary Medicine, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Neuropsychology, Nutritional Therapy, Social Work and complete laboratory facilities.

And we have this most comprehensive multispecialty team. All together. With a single dedication. **You.**

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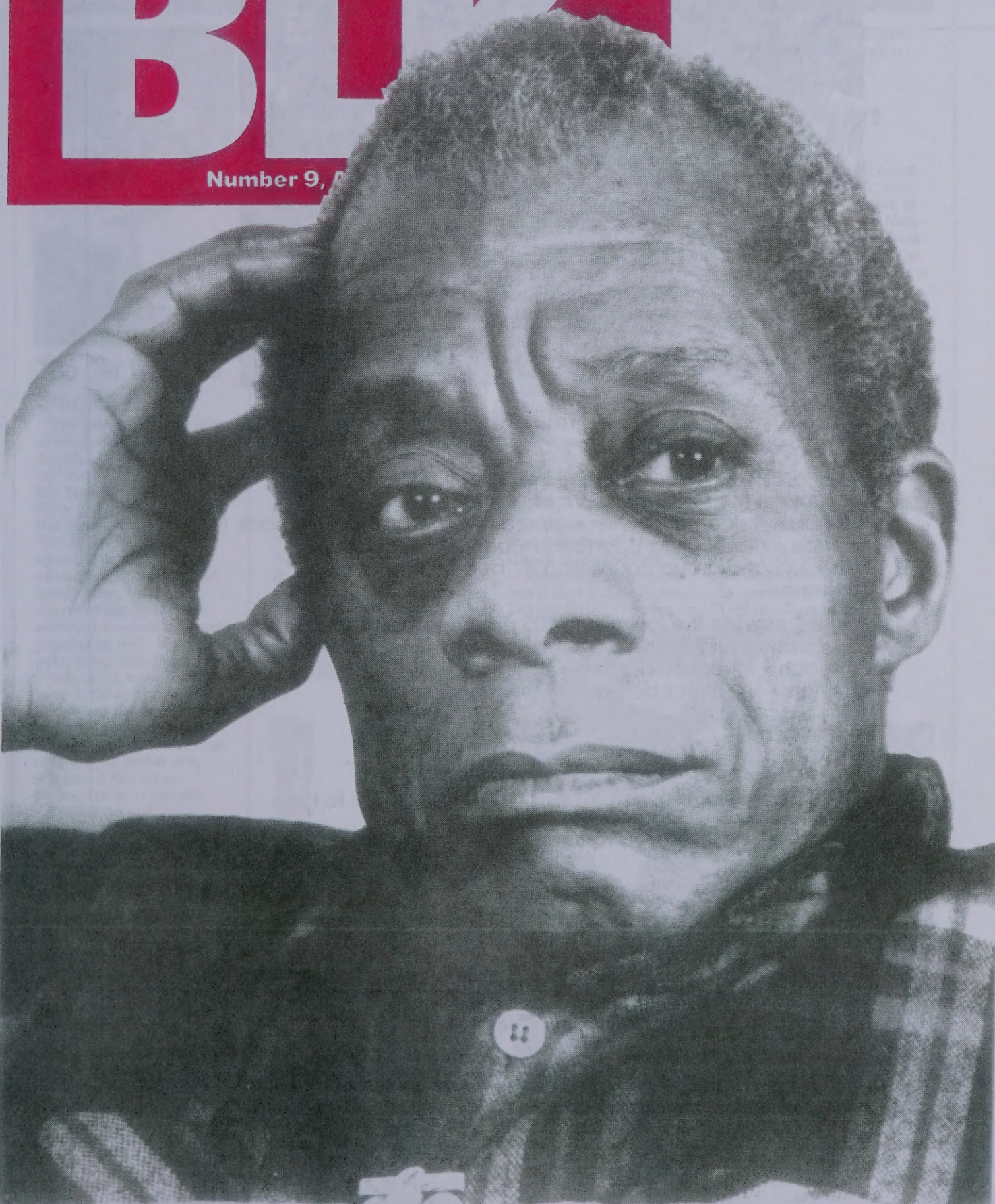
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# BLK

Number 9, 1991







## *Because we care...*

**We provide the following services:** • medical and legal referrals • residential shelter • emergency food and food bank referrals • medical transportation • benefit assistance • individual and group counseling • "buddy" volunteer assistance.

**And we provide the following AIDS education and training services:** • "training the teacher" programs • community outreach • in-service training • business and professional seminars • speaker's bureau.

## *Want to know more...*

**Call 213-936-4949** anytime day or night. We're here to help. Because we care.

# *Minority AIDS Project*

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# WORD UP



## The Car Wash as Singles Bar

The latest unlikely place to see and be seen in Los Angeles is a self-service car wash. Homeboys in the know take their rides, dirty or not, to Shaw's on the corner of Redondo and Venice Blvds. Bulging spandex is preferred among car owners on hot sunny days, but baggy shorts of various types and acid-washed levis are popular as well. If you've got a down box, pump it. Predictably, weekends are best. It takes six quarters to operate the equipment, but if all you've got are dollar bills, try the change machine or, better yet, ask one of the other patrons to help you out.

Soap it up and rub it slowly while the other brother-men throw admiring glances. Watch what you're doing or you'll get yourself all wet. Bring a pad for phone numbers.

## Brown Based on Black

Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island, was established in 1764 from the fortune made by the Brown brothers whose wealth was based on the profits they made from

their ships in African slave trade.

## Prof. Griff and the University of Homophobia

Nothing much happened last year, when off the CD but on the record, Professor Griff, Public Enemy's on-stage "minister of information," gave an interview in London saying, "There's no place for gays. When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, it was for that sort of behavior."

Public Enemy was, until a few months ago, one of the nation's top rap groups with *Yo! Bum Rush the Show* and *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back* both sounding positive and making money. "Tight the Power" from the soundtrack of Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing* was climbing the charts.

But in an interview with the *Washington Times*,

Richard Griffin sounded off again. "How come we don't talk about how Jews finance these experiments on AIDS with black people in South Africa? How come we don't talk about those things?" he asked rhetorically. "The Jews are wicked. And we can prove this. We can prove this. There's a book out that you need to get. It's called *The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews*. They owned the slave ships. They financed the slave trade. They did these things. So now the Jews are supposed to be looked at as this pure, righteous race of people?"

Untroubled by his lack of social civility or business acumen, Griff went on, "They can send their faggot little hit men. I mean, that don't move me."

In the ensuing storm that followed, PE leader Chuck D. kicked Griff out of the group. And rumor has it that Public Enemy has unofficially broken up.

**Word:** There's a place for gays, but there's no place for Griffs.

## What Things Cost

Things reputedly cost more in New York, but going to a bathhouse, at least, is cheaper in Manhattan than on the West Coast. In Detroit, on the other hand, if you want into the city's only bathhouse, you take a bath.

**Mt. Morris Baths**, New York. 12 hours for \$20 including refundable \$5 key deposit, or \$1.66 per hour even before you get your \$5 back.

**Midtowne Spa**, Los Angeles. 8 hours for \$15, or \$1.87 per hour.

**Steamworks**, Berkeley, Calif. 8 hours for \$16 including \$6 six-month membership fee, or \$2 per hour.

**TNT**, Detroit. 6 hours for \$61 including \$50 one-year membership fee, or \$10.16 per hour.



Public Enemy. Photo by Lloyd Nelson.



# BLK BOARD

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1989

Birthday celebration. Male and female exotic show. Live DJ. Caper Room, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, Calif. 213-677-0403.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1989

The Spectrum of AIDS: a Community Educational Program sponsored by the AIDS Hospice Foundation Advisory Board. King/Drew Medical Center, Terrace Room, Julius Hill Intern/Resident Building, 12012 S. Compton Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 a.m.-noon. Free. Call Cynthia Davis at 213-567-7799.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1989

Rev. Carl Bean will be among those feted at the Annual Awards Dinner honoring at recipients of the 1989 Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration Community Service and Parade Awards. Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif. Cocktails 7 p.m. Dinner 8 p.m. \$75.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1989

Women's Softball League: Sudden Impact plays WC Fielders at Poinsettia Recreation Center, 7341 Willoughby Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 6 p.m.

Pot Luck Dinner and Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Why Jealousy in a Relationship" and "Friends from the Bars." 3 p.m. Call Paul Davis at 213-274-3398 or 213-665-5933 for location. It will *not* be held at the Minority AIDS Project.

Bowling outing sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Star Lanes, 5227 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2-4 p.m. Call Rene at 213-664-4716.

Dorothea Lange, Doris Ulmann and Marion Post Wolcott, women who used people of color as subject matter, are among the artists featured in "Noted Women Photographers of the 20s and 30s." Reception sponsored by MECLA. Jan Kesner Gallery, 164 N. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-6 p.m. \$25. 213-938-6850.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 1989

Women's Softball League: Sudden Impact plays Dr. BJ Bones at Poinsettia Recreation Center, 7341 Willoughby Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 6 p.m.

Prevention and Beyond: a Framework for Collective Action: a National Conference on HIV Inflection and AIDS among Racial and Ethnic Opoulations. Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. August 13-17. Free, but participation limited to first 3000 registrants. Call Edith Ross at 800-729-AIDS.

Sunday Afternoon Dance sponsored by Lambda Alumni of UCLA. Catch One Disco, 4067 Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 4-8 p.m. \$5. 213-281-7927.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1989

Hot, Horny & Healthy safe sex playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m. Call Bobby Smith at 213-664-4716.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1989

"Continuing to Explore Cultural Sensitivity Issues," one of

a series of weekly lunch hour education forums for people with AIDS and HIV disease, staff, volunteers and the general public. AIS Project Los Angeles, 6721 Romaine St., Los Angeles, Calif. Noon-1 p.m.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1989

Hot, Horny & Healthy safe sex playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Roots Room, Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m. Call Bobby Smith at 213-664-4716.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1989

Caribbean Nights, a dance celebrating the common heritage of black and Latina lesbians, is being sponsored by Lapis. Music: salsa and reggae. Food: Afro-Cuban finger foods. Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m.-12 midnight. \$10, but no one will be turned away because of inability to pay. Call Milagros at 213-381-7805 from noon to 5 p.m.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1989

Women's Softball League: Sudden Impact plays Hot Type at Poinsettia Recreation Center, 7341 Willoughby Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 6 p.m.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Why Do People Break Up" and "Why These Relationships?" Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

"Come Play with Ivy at Pico Beach!" a celebration of Ivy Bottini's "24th Annual 39th" Birthday to Benefit Rue's House sponsored by the Stonewall Democratic Club and Catch One Disco. Food and show. Beach party clothes suggested. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3 p.m. Admission \$10. Co-sponsor \$100. 213-969-1735.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1989

Simon Nkoli reception and fundraiser at 1616 W. 25th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. \$25. 213-666-5495.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1989

Simon Nkoli will speak at Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 11:30 a.m. 213-666-5495 or 213-936-4949.

Simon Nkoli will speak at A Different Light Bookstore, 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m. 213-666-5495 or 213-668-0629.

Women's Softball League: Sudden Impact plays Choices at Poinsettia Recreation Center, 7341 Willoughby Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

Tea Dance sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Mickey's, 8857 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. Call Rene at 213-664-4716.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1989

Simon Nkoli will appear at a "Free South Africa" Forum. St. John's Episcopal Church, 514 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m. 213-666-5495.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1989

The Last Jack, the final regularly scheduled Black Jack safe sex party. Call 213-338-1516 for more information.



# BLK MAIL

## Compassion and Valor

Dear Editor:

BLK is a fine and welcome addition to the journalistic scene. In both format and content it is at once succinct and informative and in outlook it seems representative, well-balanced and direct. I certainly welcome the opportunity to broaden my perspective as I "look through other's eyes" as it were. I thank you for providing the opportunity.

I particularly wish to thank you for publishing "It Happened To Me," by Roger V. Pamplin, Jr. [BLK, June 1989]. I have some small acquaintance with Roger and have always admired his positive outlook and his passionate concern for others in these troubled days. His willingness to publish it are acts of high valor and great compassion for our community. I am deeply grateful to both Roger and you for your commitment. I am glad that through BLK we can be friends.

*Christopher Flynn  
Los Angeles, Calif.*

## Black Gay Bucs

Dear Editor:

While I appreciate your mention of my novel, *The Buccaneer*, in the issue "Read My Lips" column [BLK, June 1989], I must correct the statement that it's "a tale of white outlaws..." The book is based on two little known historical facts: First, that the buccaneers who sailed the Caribbean in the 17th century were a self-contained homosexual community, and second, that a significant minority of them were black men. In fact, the story follows the adventures of a crew of buccaneers which becomes, in the course of the story, mostly black. Hey, Preston, check it out!

*M. S. Hunter  
Rindge, New Hamp.*

## A Reaction to BLK

Dear Editor:

Congratulations on your fine publication. Wishing you good luck and much success.

*Ted Ross  
Publisher, Reactions  
Studio City, Calif.*

## Phantom Letter

We received a clever and well-written letter from a reader regarding an incorrect identification of personnel at Horizon in Los Angeles. We would have liked to have printed it, but the missive included no address and telephone number for verification. Imagine the outcry if we printed a letter from John Smith, when, in fact, John Smith never wrote it. That's why we must verify letters. But after verification, if you wish, we will not print your name in the paper.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

## News of the BLK Family

The bio on Jewel Williams, scheduled for this issue, has been postponed due to the breaking story on Simon Nkoli.

New staff members this month include Jimi Walton as photo coordinator; Don Thomas in advertising; and Steve Grayson, the "et cerera" man who handles those unglamorous tasks no one else seems to find time to do.

Co-sexual gay ventures are difficult, at best, because of differing local agendas and mistrust grounded in male chauvinism at the institutional level. But still we try. And as BLK expands and more people become involved, if those people turn out to be mostly men, the mistrust grows in a self-perpetuating manner. But where are the female news writers? Who knows a woman with a camera? What woman wants to make a few bucks selling advertising? How can we find a lesbian who wants to do proofreading, or distribute the papers to the bars, or do public relations? If the largely male staff that currently puts out BLK makes a gender-based mistake, please don't crucify us for it. We're doing the best we can and can use your help.—A.B.

## Corrections & Omissions

Top personnel at the Horizon in Los Angeles were incorrectly identified in last month's "Read My Lips" [BLK, July 1989]. The correct names and titles are: Louis Offlee, owner; Robert McKinney, club manager; and Bruce Johnson, public relations manager.

# BLK

Number 9, August 1989

**Editor and Publisher Alan Bell**

**Staff Writers** Revon Kyle Banneker, Preston G. Guider, Mark Haile, Chi Hughes, Jarvis D. Moore

**Contributors** Clarence Burns III, L. Paul Davis, Lars Eighner, Frank Hall, L. Lloyd Jordan, Alycee J. Lane, Cornell Makonnen

**Listings** Ron Parker

**Production Assistants** Oscar D. Smith, Jr.

**Cartoonist** A. J. Benny

**Photo Coordinator** Jimi Walton

**Photographers** Bob Finney, Terry Johnson, David Weems

**Advertising** Don Thomas, Asif Zaman

**Public Relations** Gene Cornelius

**Distribution** Rudy Carn

**Finance** Howard McPhatter

**Consultant** Colin Gibson

**Assistant to the Publisher** Steve Grayson

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**Cover:** James Baldwin. Story on page 13. Photo by Steve Long courtesy of University of Massachusetts Press.



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Los Angeles



# Simon Nkoli

## *Openly gay South African fights against apartheid and for gay rights*

By Jarvis D. Moore

**S**imon Nkoli is a leader in one of the most universally respected political and humanitarian causes in the world: the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Active in progressive movements for many years, Nkoli eventually became implicated in crimes against the state that kept him imprisoned for three and a half years. Yet, Nkoli is known only to a select few of his countrymen and to fellow activists, and is snubbed by most of those. Tseko Simon Nkoli is gay.

But Nkoli's visibility may change somewhat this summer when he makes his first trip outside his native land—to Europe and North America to raise consciousness and to raise funds for the struggle back home.

**N**koli's most visible brush with the authorities came with the lengthy and controversial Delmas Treason Trial, which finally ended with his acquittal in the fall of 1988. The ordeal began when Nkoli (pronounced nick-KOL-lee) was detained by authorities in 1984 after a public violence charge "was made into a treason charge," he said. "I was held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act and didn't get bail until I gave evidence for my defense in June 1987."

The incident which precipitated charges against Nkoli occurred in June 1984. Residents of the black townships

### PROFILE

surrounding Johannesburg revolted against rent increases imposed by government-appointed local councilors. In the ensuing violence, five councilors were killed. Subsequently, police arrested 22 community-based anti-apartheid activists whom they suspected of being involved in organizing opposition to the rent increases. Nkoli was among the 22, and they became known collectively as the "Vaal 22."

Nkoli was known to police because he was a founding member of the Gay Association of South Africa (GASA) and the organizer of its subsidiary Saturday Group, an interracial gay group in the black townships of Soweto. But he also had a long history of community activism pre-dating, even, his involvement with the gay rights struggle.

"I was involved in anti-apartheid organizations and demonstrated against unjust laws such as detention without trial, inferior education, the increase of rent," he says. "Only in 1983 did I become involved in gay organizations, although I never really went into hiding as a gay person."

And therein lies Nkoli's significance to the anti-apartheid movement: He is one of only two well-known openly gay people in that revolutionary struggle. The other is Alfred Machela. It has been difficult at times, he says, but he has refused to let his sexual orientation define the type and level of his political activities.

"When I was coming from a detainee support committee meeting, one of the men approached me in a very hostile manner about my gayness," Nkoli said. "But before I went to prison I never faced a lot of harrassment from straight people. I think it's just a matter of principle and belief in what you are doing as a person, not as a gay person."

Machela said, "I was elected a coordinator and some people objected saying we can't have perverted people as some kind of leader. At a later date some other people actually felt that you can't choose leaders on the basis of their sexuality. Sexuality has nothing to do with it. It just depends on the quality of your leadership. Of course, you become some sort of a laughing stock, but it's something that passes by."

Nkoli and others were held in solitary confinement under South African emergency regulations for more than a year before they were officially charged. In January 1986, the trial finally began. Because several of those charged were top leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the country's major legal anti-apartheid coalition, the case generated the greatest amount of public interest in South Africa since the treason trial of the ANC (African National Congress) leader Nelson Mandela in the 1960s.

The state's case was never strong. Little evidence linked any of the accused to actual acts of violence committed during the unrest. In November 1986, the presiding judge, Supreme Court Justice Kees Van Dijkhorst, was obliged to dismiss charges against three defendants who had not even been mentioned in the government's depositions. Six others were released on bail. Van Dijkhorst refused bail to the remaining 13 prisoners.

Late in March of 1987, Judge Van Dijkhorst made a controversial and irregular decision to remove one of the

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*Nkoli was known to police because he was a founding member of the GASA and the organizer of Saturday Group, an interracial gay group in the black townships of Soweto.*

---

court's designated lay assessors, Professor W. A. Joubert. In South Africa, criminal cases are decided by a judge sitting with two laypersons, called assessors, who advise him on matters of fact and credibility.

Joubert was dismissed after it was learned that he had once signed a petition of more than one million signatures



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collected by the UDF in opposition to a new South African constitution excluding blacks from all political life.

Joubert responded by accusing the judge of holding pro-government political views. And the fired assessor alleged that the second assessor, W.F. Krugel, belonged to a white racist secret society called the Afrikaner Broederbond. Joubert said he felt his presence in the court had been "an important countervailing influence to balance" the judge's own views. "If my [openly expressed] political dispositions constitute a reason why I should recuse myself [resign], then for the same reason the presiding judge should also recuse himself."

Van Dijkhorst refused to appoint a new assessor and decided to continue the trial with Krugel as his only advisor, a move unprecedented in South African law.

Defense lawyers challenged the judge's decision, claiming that the court was now "unlawfully constituted" and demanded that Van Dijkhorst step down and declare a mistrial. "We have seen the disappearance of the only member of the court whom we believed was not hostile to us," said a statement from the defendants. "We have been told that a person who signed the million signature declaration is not fit to be a member of the court that tries us. If this is so, we cannot accept that a member of the Broederbond and a judge who is seemingly hostile to us are fit to do so."

Van Dijkhorst curtly rejected defense arguments. The judge's attitude and bold maneuvers stripped the court of its façade of impartiality and revealed the government's strong desire to crush people involved in the anti-apartheid movement by whatever means are necessary.

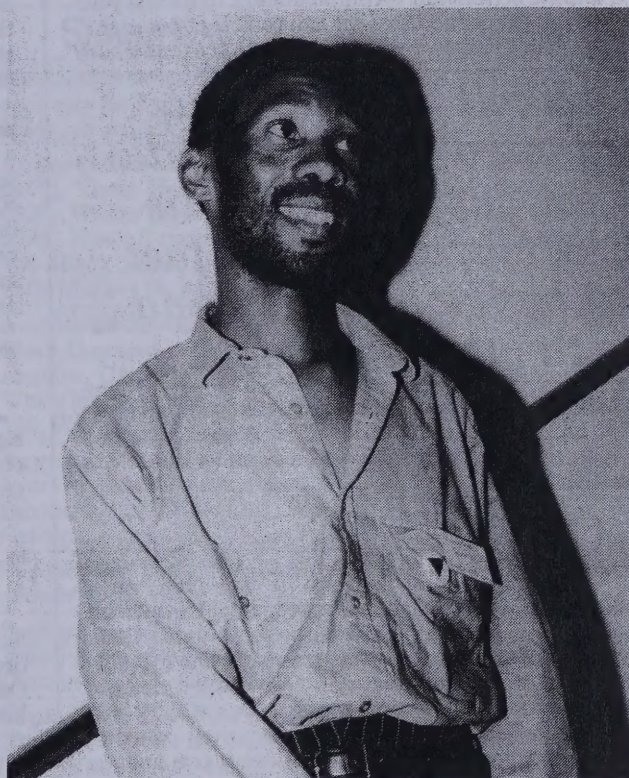
Nkoli's case split the South African gay movement along both political and racial lines. Understandably, members of GASA would have felt intimidated by the government to not do anything overt to help Nkoli, but GASA even failed to inform the international lesbian and gay movement of Nkoli's arrest. Calls continue to flow into the International Lesbian and Gay Association for GASA's expulsion on the grounds that it has not taken an active role in fighting the apartheid system. Further, the South African gay press had neglected to mention the case for almost two years after Nkoli's detention until it had been reported in the lesbian and gay press around the world. At the personal level, Nkoli felt that the white-dominated GASA did little to support him after his detention, despite the fact that he had helped to found the organization and despite his attempts to be active and friendly.

Thus on April 8, 1988, black gay rights activists formed

## *Nkoli's case split the South African gay movement along both political and racial lines.*

Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand (GLOW), now the largest black-oriented gay group in South Africa. It has become successful and Nkoli recently asked that his membership in GASA be suspended. Further widening the rift between black and white gay organizations in South Africa was the snubbing by groups connected with GASA of the first anniversary celebrations of the existence of GLOW.

Nkoli, and other leaders of GLOW, believe conflicting political ideologies are a source of friction between the two groups. Nkoli said, "It is distressing to them that GLOW exists and they really aren't wishing us success." He was not



Simon Nkoli. Photo by Rex Wockner/Outlines.

surprised at the negative or indifferent reaction to his invitations to GASA.

"Our organization is social and political and we have to deal with economic and educational matters," said Nkoli. "We were very afraid to use the word 'politics' in our original constitution because in South Africa, especially when you talk to the black people, a political organization is going to mean victims, detainees."

But in trying to meet people's needs in entertainment, religion, social and other issues, GLOW ran into the roadblock and realization that so much is political. Nkoli continued, "Like housing is a political problem. And then to represent gay people from factory floor to school and in the street is also political. It just depends on how an individual person is going to interpret it."

GASA tried to label itself as "unpolitical." Yet in South Africa, no organization can actually claim to be nonpolitical. To do nothing is a tacit acceptance of the political status quo, and obversely, to do even small symbolic acts is seen by the paranoid white minority apartheid government as treasonous subversion that imperils the security of the state.

And while GASA was nominally open to black people, it was organized and run predominantly by white middle-class men who did not want to risk incurring the wrath of the government. They did not make black people feel welcome.

"What makes me angry was when sometimes GASA organized functions in bars which barred races other than black, and they would not even tell us," said Nkoli. He related another situation where he was invited to a picnic in the countryside. He and a friend walked all the way from Soweto, only to find that blacks were not allowed in that part of the countryside. "I felt that GASA should have refused to go there. They said to wait for them [at the front entrance], and I told my friend, 'No! I know we can get a lift back to Johannesburg,' and we left. That was when I began to think that we should really do something about our involvement in GASA."



GLOW's most significant accomplishment in its one year of existence was the establishment of a Sunday "gay night" at a bar in Soweto. This was the first place and event where

*Nkoli felt that the white-dominated GASA did little to support him after his detention, despite the fact that he had helped found the organization.*

black gays could meet and socialize in Soweto. The next goals for GLOW are to build coalitions with progressive gay organizations and increase AIDS education in the black townships.

"My feeling is that AIDS is going to hit lots of black people because of ignorance, and it is high time that a proper education should be given to blacks," said Nkoli. Resistance to using condoms is quite strong. In one meeting on AIDS, a heckler shouted to Nkoli: "No! I want flesh to flesh!" after being advised to use a condom. Out of ten black people he has spoken to, one chooses to use a condom, whereas among whites, six out of ten believe it is a serious matter.

Blacks in South Africa still view AIDS as irrelevant to their sexual practices. "I think the black community still

needs a lot of education on AIDS," says Nkoli, "to tell them that in five years it won't be a white man's disease. But to them AIDS is something that is not really existing in the black community."

"We need to be very aggressive towards educating the people," says Machela. "Should we wait we are going to have a big problem and it's going to be almost impossible to comprehend. We have to start with the very basic things like the STDs [sexually transmitted diseases]. We have a very high incidence of STDs in our community. Therefore the starting point is to say 'you don't have to use condoms because you are getting away from AIDS, but for the mere fact that you can get STDs from somebody.'"

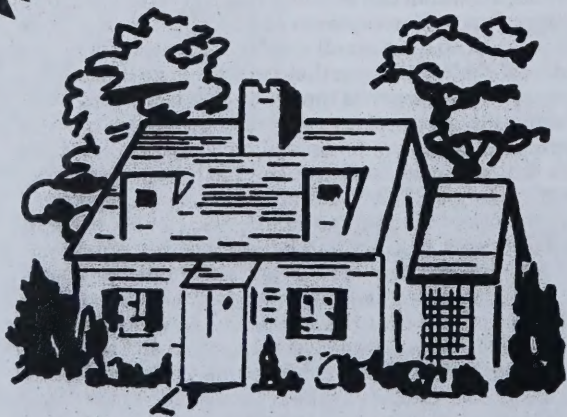
Toward the goal of building coalitions with other gay rights groups of various racial compositions, a breakthrough occurred in the spring of 1987. Several smaller lesbian and gay groups, including the largely black Rand Gay Organization and the Capetown group, Lesbian and Gays Against Oppression, formed the Congress of Pink Democrats coalition. They released the following strong and auspicious statement to the South African gay press:

"The Congress of Pink Democrats has formed to bring lesbian and gay issues into the progressive movement. We note the tardiness of the response of gay organizations to the Delmas Treason Trial and the lack of solidarity with Simon Nkoli and the other trialists [defendants]. We unequivocally express support for Simon Nkoli who has given lesbian and gay activists a focus for their diffuse feelings of anger. Simon's actions represent the principles of the Congress of Pink Democrats—notably that all oppressions are related and that all oppressed people must fight together to free all

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human potential."

However, good intentions, commitment, and sense of mission may not easily translate into realized goals. Since being acquitted in the fall of 1988 of his trumped up charges, Nkoli's life has not regained stability. The financial support

## *Blacks in South Africa still view AIDS as irrelevant to their sexual practices.*

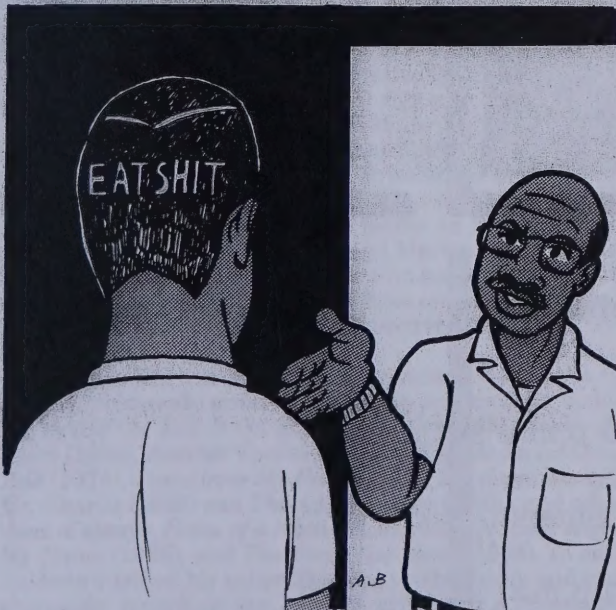
he had from a church group ceased when his trial ended. He has been trying to find work in Johannesburg, without success.

**B**ut now his enthusiasm is directed toward his upcoming trip. His summer-long expedition began with a tour of Europe and attendance at the International Lesbian and Gay Association in Vienna July 17-24. Next comes a tour of Canadian cities in early August, concluding with a tour of the United States from August 23 to September 20.

"The important thing about Simon Nkoli's visit to the United States," says Los Angeles activist Phill Wilson, "is that he represents the total struggle that black gays and lesbians feel. He dramatizes the issues of being homosexual and issues of being black. As a part of the free South Africa struggle, it shows how we rightfully are part of the universal black struggle. I believe that his sharing time with us can be a very empowering experience."

Forever obstinate, South African authorities initially denied Nkoli a passport. Only when legal action was threatened by a sympathetic official at the U.S. embassy in Pretoria did his exit papers come through. It was just one more battle in a continuing series of battles in a very long war. It's not easy to be a manifestly black, openly gay, conspicuously outspoken activist in South Africa.

Sources for this article included Tim McCaskell, *Gay Community News*; Dag Strand Nielsen, *NABWMT Journal*; and Rex Wockner, *Chicago Outlines*.



*"It's always a pleasure to meet my son's gay friends because they're always so tastefully groomed."*

## Simon Nkoli U.S. Tour Schedule

*For specific information on Simon Nkoli's local itinerary in each city he plans to visit, contact any of the persons listed below, or write to the organization listed.*

**August 23-26—San Francisco.** Shurland H. Aird (415-863-8405), Thom Bean (415-641-5706), Michael Foo (415-863-0925), Walter Moore (415-861-1868), John Teamer (415-863-0925), Hosea Turner (415-621-5298) or Reggie Williams (415-826-4580), Black and White Men Together/San Francisco, 2269 Market St. #199, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**August 26-28—Los Angeles.** Phill Wilson (213-666-5495), Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027. René Seidel (213-483-1108), Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 7985 Santa Monica #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046.

**August 30-31—Chicago.** Ken Allen (312-561-9661), Les Everett (312-549-2021), Lee Gardener (312-541-3078) or Bob Schwartz (312-288-4136), Black and White Men Together/Chicago, Box 14622, Chicago, IL 60614.

**September 1-2—Minneapolis.** Black and White Men Together/Twin Cities, Box 541, Minneapolis, MN 55458.

**September 3-4—Cincinnati.** Scott McLarty (513-751-7659), Men of All Colors Together/Cincinnati, Box 19421, Cincinnati, OH 45219.

**September 5-6—Louisville.** David Lott (502-637-3781), Black and White Men Together/Louisville, 1321 S. Preston St., Louisville, KY 40208.

**September 7-8—Atlanta.** Duncan Teague, (404-874-1185), Black and White Men Together/Atlanta, Box 1334, Atlanta, GA 30301-1334.

**September 8-9—Memphis.** Edward Dillard (901-452-5894), Jeff Harris (901-386-4792) or Irwin Rothenberg (901-726-1461), Black and White Men Together/Memphis, Box 41773, Memphis, TN 38174-1773.

**September 10-11—Washington-Baltimore.** Robert Dingle (301-366-2964), Brad Green (202-371-1919), Donell M. Jenkins (301-565-3386) or A. Billy S. Jones (202-387-8096), Black and White Men Together/Washington, Box 14218, Washington, DC 20044.

**September 12-13—Philadelphia.** Don Ransom (215-225-4582), John Speer (215-692-6610), Black and White Men Together/Philadelphia, Box 42257, Philadelphia PA 19101.

**September 14-15—Hartford.** Steve Martin (203-624-9580) or David Russell (203-560-0684), Black and White Men Together/Connecticut, Box 12332, Hartford, CT 06112.

**September 16-17—Boston.** John Bush (617-266-4378), George Nolley (617-266-4378), Michel Poulior (617-442-4496) or Nelson Rivera (617-266-4378), Black and White Men Together/Boston, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

**September 18-20—New York.** Bill Burns (212-864-7936), James Credle (201-481-2876), Averill Gill (718-591-5493), George Mayo (212-228-8854), Gavin Morrow-Hall (201-481-2876), Eric Perez (212-245-0410) or James H. Toms, Jr. (212-662-0401), Zulu AIDS Project, Men of All Colors Together/New York, Box 1518, New York, NY 10023.

*If a city near you is not on this list, you may wish to contact one of the following for more information: Trevar Charles (904-644-1994), Francis Gipson, Jr. (703-451-3778), James Hornback (904-384-7789), Kenneth McCreary (904-224-9596), Kenneth Parrish (407-849-1963), Darrell A. Rodgers (904-574-4383), LeRoy R. Scott (313-896-4932), Paul Sears (313-695-2383) or Stirling Stone (614-444-4255).*



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**Hot, Horny & Healthy!** was designed by and specially for Black gay and bisexual men, but anyone can benefit and all interested persons are welcome.

BWMT/LA wants as many people as possible to experience **HHH**. If you'd like to attend **HHH**—or if you'd like us to present **HHH** for you and your friends or co-workers—just call us!

To attend or host a **Hot, Horny & Healthy!** playshop, or for more information on **HHH** or AIDS prevention, call BWMT / Los Angeles.

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## **August Hot, Horny & Healthy! Playshops**

August 14                      7:00 p.m.

LA Gay & Lesbian  
Community Services Center

August 17                      7:30 p.m.

Catch One Disco



# James Baldwin

*Born August 2, 1924, the life and meaning of the famed author is considered*

**By Ricardo Mikelson**

When on December 1, 1987, James Arthur Baldwin died an expatriate in his villa of 19 years in St. Paul de Vence, in southern France, yet another chapter in the turbulent life of this African American *griot* had come to an end. Along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X, Baldwin had served as a significant link in a chain that individually and jointly became rounds of shots fired and heard round the world during the turbulent sixties, providing the impetus for both the civil rights movement and what in some historical accounts is described as a black American revolt or revolution. Though the other men were felled by the assassin's bullet of cancerous racism, Jimmy, as he was affectionately called by those who knew him, died from complications resulting from stomach cancer, brought on in part by years of working, fighting, witnessing and waiting patiently for a

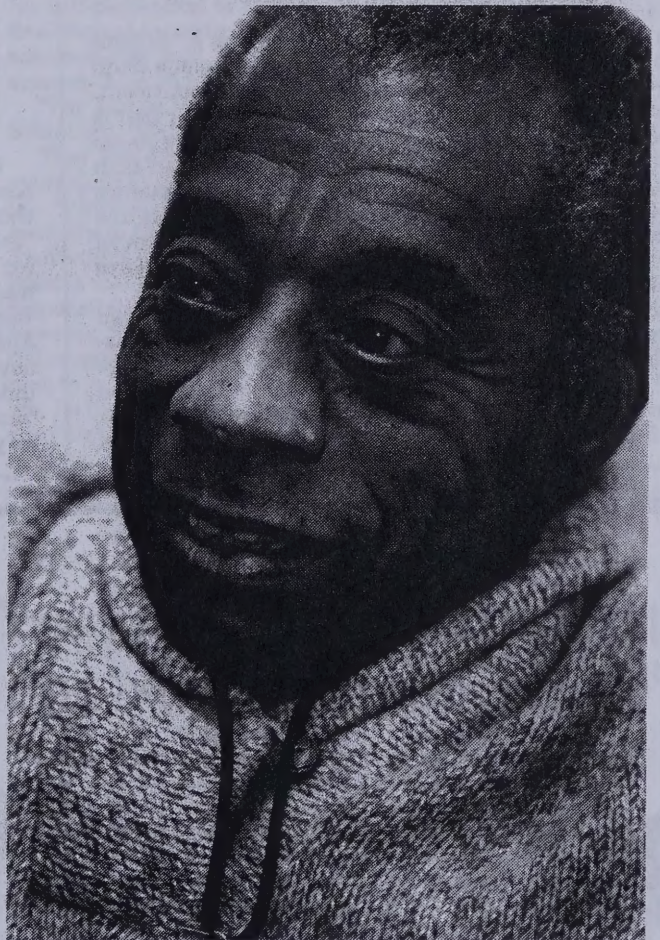
## REMEMBRANCE

significant change in the fabric of American life that would recognize the dignity of all humanity, irrespective of race, class, gender, or sexual preference.

Together the three men (and the significance of James Baldwin's life must first be seen in direct relation to his political activities) were responsible for a metamorphosis within the American/African-American experience that saw a class of social outcasts, pariahs, and untouchables demand, reclaim, and gain their human dignity; while focusing, decoding, indicting, and condemning forever any and all efforts within the veil of racism to systematically deny any American citizen his/her inalienable civil rights.

Significantly, their callings and renderings were steeped in the tradition of Nat Turner—of the black preacher/revolutionary. Whereas Martin was a Christian minister, Jimmy had been one between the ages of 14 and 17. Malcolm, a convert to Islamic teachings, was a leader in Elijah Muhammad's Nation of Islam. Malcolm and Martin inscribed their legacies on the minds of audiences who heard their near fire and brimstone oratorical offerings from either the church (or Mosque) pulpits, street corner soapboxes, or political platforms.

Jimmy, a Harlem youth preacher-turn-writer at the age of 17, would do so in some 19 full-length publications, including novels *Go Tell It On the Mountain* (1953), *Giovanni's Room* (1956), *Another Country* (1962), *If Beale Street Could Talk* (1974), *Just Above My Head* (1979); the plays *Blues for Mr. Charlie* (1955) and *The Amen Corner* (1958); and collections of essays, *Notes of a Native Son* (1953), *Nobody Knows My Name* (1965), and *The Fire Next Time* (1963). In each, Baldwin wielded his saber-like pen, unabashedly and cacophonously recording the heinous crimes of a "traumatic society" that threatens to eternally exclude—to the point of near genocide—some of its members by relegating them to a



**James Baldwin**

place of socio-political and economic persona non grata.

Born in 1924, Baldwin matriculated through the public school system of New York, gaining recognition at an early age for his intellectual and artistic abilities. A voracious reader, he published his first short story by age 14, at which time he also won recognition from New York's Mayor La Guardia. By the time he arrived on the literary scene during the post World War II/pre-civil rights movement period in America, he had been the recipient of several major awards and fellowships, including Rosenwald. He found him-



*"I was not born to be  
what someone else said  
I was. I was not born  
to be defined by someone  
else, but I myself, and  
myself only."*

self heir to the legacy of Richard Wright, author of *Native Son* and his mentor whom he would follow to Paris, as early as 1948.

Convinced at this point in his life that it was a "difficult task to try and tell people the truth," Baldwin made truth telling—he called it "witnessing"—a life-long commitment. He confessed, "in my own experience, the only thing that is really frightening is the effort one makes to avoid it—to avoid the truth." To do so successfully, Baldwin aborted both the bitterness as a means to an end approach of his mentor and the traditional conciliatory mumbling sound(s) of the more conservative blacks who continued in the realm of Booker T. Washington. He made his anger a creative force and source.

Baldwin made *a priori* his message of truth to all African Americans, debunking and destroying in the process the historical lies and myths white America, "the authors of devastation," had created about them, and which sadly they had come, in his opinion, to believe about themselves. In a letter to his 15-year-old nephew and namesake, James, published

in *The Fire Next Time*, Baldwin wrote:

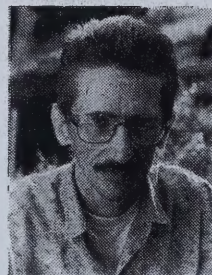
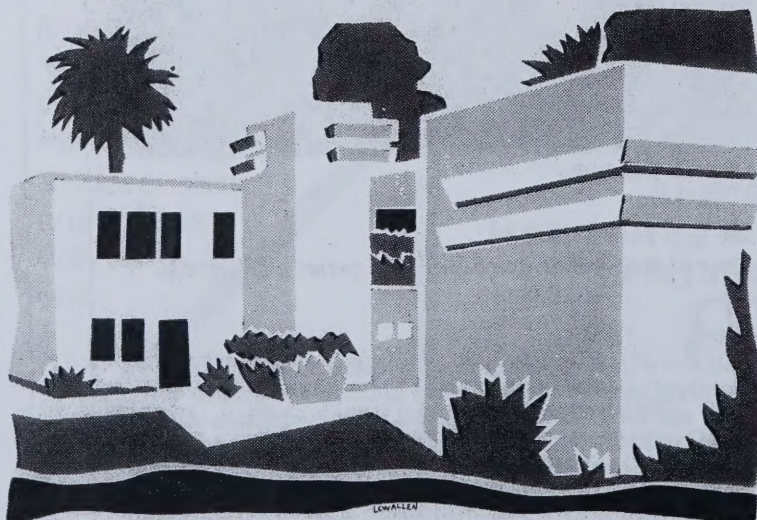
The details and symbols of your life have been deliberately constructed to make you believe what white people say about you. Please try to remember that what they believe, as well as what they do and cause you to endure does not testify to your inferiority but to their inhumanity and fear.

But his words of truth were directed to whites as well. He also wrote in *The Fire Next Time*:

I do not know many Negroes who are eager to be "accepted" by white people, still less to be loved by them; they, blacks, simply don't wish to be beaten over the head by the whites every instant of our brief passage on this planet. White people in this country have quite enough to do in learning how to accept and love themselves and each other, and when they have achieved this—which will not be tomorrow and may very well be never—the Negro problem will no longer exist, for it will no longer be needed.

Speaking often with the collective voice of all African Americans, Baldwin called attention to the hypocrisy of those who practiced Judeo-Christian ethics and yet were "deliberately, with a ruthless single-mindedness," attempting to reduce African Americans to "something less than a man." He vociferously announced that "The Negro simply wants to be dealt with as another human being. No more. And no less." It is such "undecorated truth," to borrow from novelist Toni Morrison, that Baldwin leaves us his legacy. Indeed, as LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka) said of his colleague: "Jimmy Baldwin was not only a writer, an international literary figure; he was a man, spirit, voice..."

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**A**mong the many social ills that resonate through Baldwin's apocalyptic voice is the sexually repressive nature of American society which he, an avowed homosexual, saw as intricately entwined with racial issues. In fact, it was his contention that at the very core of what was problematic with America was its repressed sexuality that made it an "infantile society." "I think America is terrified of feeling anything. And homophobia is simply an extreme example of the American terror that's concerned with growing up," he once told Richard Goldstein of the *Village Voice*.

In 1956, 13 years prior to the Stonewall Rebellion of New York's Greenwich Village which marked the genesis of the modern gay movement, Baldwin made what Mel Watkins called "the tangled web of homosexual love" the central focus of conflict in his second novel, *Giovanni's Room*, whose setting is Paris and whose major characters are white. (This pioneering step should make us reconsider the actual genesis of this movement.) When David, an American visiting Europe, meets Italian Giovanni, he falls in love with him, although he is engaged to Hella, who had left him to tour Europe at the time. David postpones his heretofore unquestioned heterosexual life and explores his new found sexuality through his unexplainable love for Giovanni, with whom he lives for a while before rejecting the relationship and returning to his fiancée.

Despite his candid treatment of this subject, both in his writings and personal life, Baldwin abhorred such labels as "homosexual" and "gay." Consequently, though never denying his own orientation he objected to being called either term. Being called a "faggot" was no different than being called a "nigger," for in both instances someone made you

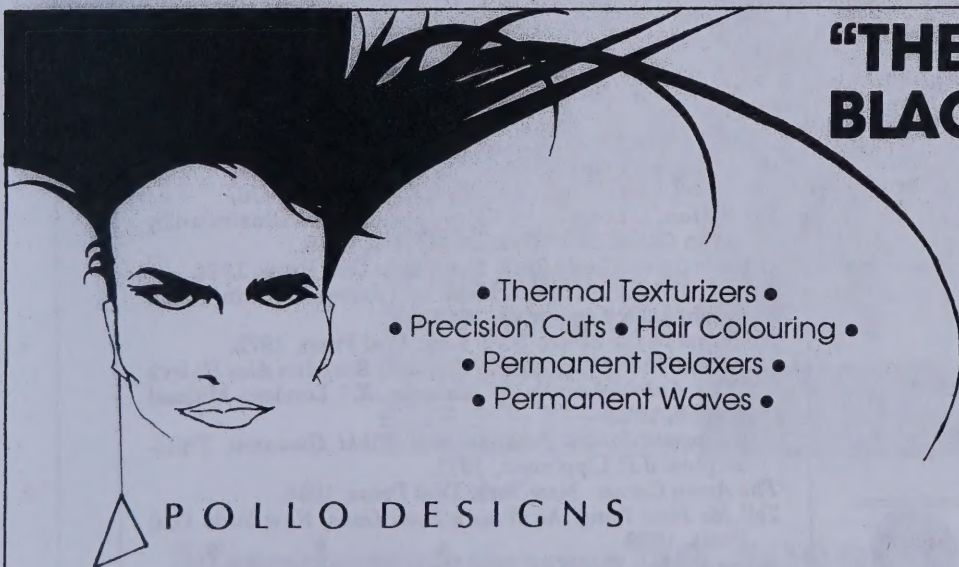
*"The sexual question comes after the question of color; it's simply one more aspect of the danger in which all black people live."*

"other"—a thing devoid of human dignity. Baldwin described his self-perception to Quincy Troupe in what would be his final formal interview. He said: "I was not born to be what someone else said I was. I was not born to be defined by someone else, but I myself, and myself only."

"I'm James Baldwin," he told Jewish dramatist Budd Schulberg. "That's a very essential difference."

That the denial of labels was not a negation of self is made clear by Baldwin who told the editor of the *Black Scholar*, "I love men but I am not homosexual." Speaking more candidly to Goldstein, Baldwin admitted to being most uncomfortable with the word "gay." "I never understood exactly what is meant by it," he said. His sense of commitment and responsibility to championing this lifestyle never abated, however. "Toward that phenomenon we call gay... I feel special responsibility—because I would have to be a kind of witness to it." While he witnessed by telling the truth about gay life, he insisted that his own sexuality was "very personal, absolutely personal." It was to remain private at all times.

Paradoxically, Baldwin saw black gays as being at a



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greater political disadvantage in American society than their white counterparts. As he explained to Goldstein, "The sexual question comes after the question of color; it's simply one more aspect of the danger in which all black people live." He further pointed out, in his most candid voice, that the hermetically sealed white gay world was not itself devoid of racism. As such it does not necessarily offer sanctuary to the black gay, for it was "no more prepared to accept black people than anywhere else in society." A political coalition between black and white gays seemed dubious, for "a coalition has to be based on the grounds of human dignity."

**H**owever, Baldwin's literary and philosophical cosmos is not a dungeon of chaos and despair. The beacon that shines from his "city on a hill" pulsates to the rhythm of love. He concludes, "love is where you find it." Love, as Eugene Redmond tells us, is Baldwin's "balm in the Gilead of America." Eleanor Traylor explains that the "perilous journey of love" is a central theme in Baldwin's works. For him, love "if not risked, denies all possibility of the glorious in human life, which, if not risked, ensures the depths of sorrow but the ecstasy of joy; which, if betrayed, leads to madness and death; and which, if ignored or avoided, is directly responsible for the misery that afflicts the human world."

It is thus not erotica that concerned or attracted Jimmy's attention, although this type of love is found in his collected work, mostly as celebration and ceremony rather than as lust. Baldwin's love theme is akin to the agape love of his Judaeo-Christian orientation—yet another link that connects him to Dr. King and to the later Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El Shabbazz), who preached love in place of his original diatribes of hate.

One must have love in this loveless world, Baldwin maintained, for himself and his fellow man, even those who hate him. Baldwin admonishes his nephew: "The really terrible thing, old buddy, is that you must accept them [whites]. And I mean that very seriously. You must accept them with love. For these innocent people have no other hope. They are, in effect still trapped in a history which they do not understand."

Baldwin's fictional and dramatic characters shout his message of the importance of self love as they struggle



"Now tell Daddy how you were demonstrating safe sex on Cousin Malcolm."

through the throes of their daily lives that complicate their reality. Listen to Luke of *The Amen Corner* as he advises his son:

You know, David, it don't take much to hold a man together. A man can lose a whole lot, might look to everybody else that he done lost so much that he ought to want to be dead, but he can keep on—he can even die with his head up, hell, as long as he got that one thing. That one thing is him, David, who he is inside—and, son, I don't believe no man ever got to that without somebody loved him.

This, too, is the message of *Giovanni's Room*, which Baldwin explained was not about homosexuality, but instead "what happens to you if you're afraid to love anybody." Homosexual Jacques in *Giovanni's Room* admits that his life of prostitution is shameful because it lacked affection and joy. In short, it lacked love; it was much "like putting an electric plug in a dead socket. Touch, but no contact. All touch, but no contact, and no light." This demand for self love and the love of one's fellow man is, in the end, "a tremendous responsibility."

In his life, James Arthur Baldwin did more than touch us. He made contact on the inside, offering us a light which he called Truth to debunk the myths about black life and "gay" life. Toni Morrison eulogized Baldwin with these words: "Yours was the courage to live life in and from its belly as well as beyond its edges, to see and say what it was, to recognize and identify evil but never fear or stand in awe of it." This, in the final analysis, is Baldwin's legacy to us. We can look on his life and be renewed.

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## **Simon Nkoli**



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**St. John's Episcopal Church  
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The “Free South Africa” Forum is being held as part of Simon Nkoli's visit to Los Angeles, August 27-29, 1989. For more information on the Forum or other related activities, call 213/666-5495.



# BLK COMMUNITY NEWS

## African Americans Win at Gay Physique Contest

By Jarvis D. Moore

SAN FRANCISCO—Five gold medals and two silver awards were handed out to black women and men at Physique '89, the third national lesbian and gay bodybuilding championships, held June 24 at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. The event, which included entrants from as far away as Vancouver and Rotterdam, was sponsored by the Arcadia Bodybuilding Society.

Gold medal winners in the women's division included Carol Bryant, elite, and Andrea Johnson, middleweight. Gold medal winners in the men's division included Carlis Sharpe, middleweight; Roger V. Pamplin, Jr., light heavyweight; and Billy Tillman, heavyweight. Phill Barber and Kathy Perkins won a silver medal in the mixed pairs category.

Lesbian and gay bodybuilding is a revolutionary new force in this now century-old sport.

Three male pairs and one female pair used distinctive music, poses, and choreography of motion to produce a thrilling show.

"I flipped out over the pairs competition," said Joe Tolbe, one of the emcees. "I could see the hard work and dedication that went into their three-minute routines, and let's face it, gay men and women, well, they have that extra something."

Most innovative of all were the mixed pairs, with the winning couple pictured on our cover. These bodybuilding routines involved a man and woman together in ways that shattered conventional stereotypes.

The competition was an outgrowth of and preparation for the Gay Games. Entrants from gay and lesbian gyms from all over the world are expected to perform at the Gay Games III next August in Vancouver. Liz White, owner of a gym in Sacramento, welcomes the challenge and is working hard to make lesbian and gay male bodybuilding an international sport. "It's for the mind as well as the body," says White.

Unfortunately, the ethics and pressures of big time sports are entering the halcyon gay and lesbian sports scene. To combat that corrosive influence, there was an announcement that bodybuilders who used steroids would not be allowed to compete.

## N.Y. Poet Releases Book

NEW YORK—Galiens Press has announced the publication of Assotto Saint's latest collection of poems, *Stations*, a cycle which traces two gay men's interracial love.

Saint's previous works includes *Risin' to the Love We Need*, *New Love Song*, *Black Fag* and other theatrical pieces that deal with the lives of black gay men. His chapbook "Triple Trouble" was published in *Tongues Untied*. His writings have been anthologized in *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*, *New Men, New Minds*, and *Gay & Lesbian Poetry in Our Time*, and have appeared in a number of journals.

He is the poetry editor of *Other Countries: Black Gay Voices* and he is also the artistic director of Metamorphosis Theater, which he founded and with which he has performed in several cities.



Cathy Perkins and Phill Barber won a silver medal in the mixed pairs division of Physique '89. Photo by Steve Savage.

## 'Coming Home' Concert May Turn Profit for MAP

LOS ANGELES—"Coming Home for Friends II" a reprise of the highly successful 1988 gospel fundraiser for the Minority AIDS Project played to a half-full Shrine Auditorium July 8 enabling \$15 and \$25 ticket holders to move to the \$100 area. Last year, 1500 were turned away from the sold-out performance.

But if the numbers were down, the energy remained high. Once again, the concert was headlined by Dionne Warwick on a stage that included Natalie Cole, Melba Moore, Clifton Davis, Deniece Williams, Thelma Houston, the Pentecostal Community Choir, the Sweet Inspirations, Taurean Blaque, Dee Dee Warwick, Howard Hewett, Cassietta George, Henry Jackson and Keith Pringle.

The crowd enthusiastically greeted Maxine Waters who said, "Governor Dukemajian has used his blue pencil to cut funds for AIDS. It's a mean-spirited blue pencil."

California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown made a surprise appearance telling the crowd that he believed AIDS was man-made, although he had no evidence on the point. "There are no chimpanzees who are IV drug users," he said.

In spite of the decrease in attendance has been variously attributed to a performer list too similar to last year's, poor planning and insufficient promotion, informed sources indicate the concert may turn a modest profit.



# NABWMT Holds Ninth Annual Convention in Florida

TALLAHASSEE—Nearly 130 gay men from all over the U.S. gathered here July 2-9 for the annual convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT). NABWMT is "a gay interracial organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized," to quote its Statement of Purpose.

The major achievement reported at the convention was the establishment of NABWMT's Task Force on AIDS Prevention, which applied for and received nearly \$200,000 in funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control during the past year. The Task Force, which now has five full-time paid employees, reported that it has undertaken a survey to get accurate data on black gay and bisexual men's sexual attitudes, beliefs and practices. It also is currently offering workshops on safer sex and reducing the risk of transmitting HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, known as "Hot, Horny and Healthy." In the planning stage are programs designed to tell HIV+ men that effective treatments are available that can slow down or stop progress of AIDS when they are started early enough. The message is that a positive HIV test result can be followed by treatment to greatly extend life expectancy.

Speakers included openly gay Alan H. Spear, a five-term Minnesota Senator; Sabrina Sojourner, editor of *Etc.*; and Dr. Richard Mohr, a professor of philosophy at the University of Illinois. Spear encouraged gay men, especially gay men of color, to get involved in politics and seek office because he felt gay people needed their own political voice. Although he felt a lot of personal support from colleagues, based on his experience it was unrealistic to expect straight politicians to speak for gays on issues of importance. Sojourner delivered a passionate address of encouragement to all who struggle for freedom from oppression. She stressed that real freedom means freedom for the *whole* person—being free of one form of oppression only to be trapped by another is useless. Mohr read at length from a recent pedagogical work that touched upon many themes but left many listeners wondering about the point he was trying to make.

Ollie Lee Taylor and BWMT/Tallahassee-Big Bend, the host chapter (one of NABWMT's smaller chapters), extended a warm welcome to those who attended. But it was clear that not everyone in Tallahassee welcomed the presence of a gay interracial event at Florida State University. In fact, students and parents made more than 20 complaints to the University about open displays of affection by gay men at the Osceola residence hall. Those BWMT members who paid any attention, however, said the reactions they got merely underscored the importance of the organization's mandate to fight racism and homophobia.

Elected to office at the convention were: Ken Allen (Chicago), treasurer; Ollie Lee Taylor (Tallahassee), recording secretary; Lee Woo (San Francisco), corresponding secretary; and Al Benveneuti (Detroit), Robert Dingle (Baltimore), Lee Gardener (Chicago), Mawri Mollan (Boston), Don Moses (Youngstown), Jake Stevens (New York), Sterling Stone (Columbus) and Douglas Noble (Los Angeles), directors. Remaining in office for an additional year are co-chairs John Teamer (San Francisco) and Michael Warner (Memphis), and directors Craig Beardsley (New York), Michael Foo (San Francisco), Randy Schulz (Los Angeles) and Paul Sears (Detroit).

Several members of NABWMT's Los Angeles chapter received awards for their work nationally and locally. Former national co-chair Tom Horan received a personal achievement award for his efforts in initiating the Task Force on AIDS Prevention. Phill Wilson, a former co-chair of BWMT/

LA received a national action award for his efforts in planning the first National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference in February 1988. And former NABWMT treasurer Colin Gibson was given a personal achievement award for obtaining 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status for NABWMT so that donations to NABWMT are deductible on the donor's federal income tax return.

Next year NABWMT will be ten years old, and the convention will return to San Francisco, where the organization was founded in 1981.

## Rage Faces More Woes

LOS ANGELES—The Alcohol Beverage Control Board has filed an accusation that alleges drug trafficking by one of the officers of Nightlife Enterprises, the corporate owners of the Rage in West Hollywood.

A meeting is still pending between management of the disco and leaders of the black, Asian and Latino lesbian and gay community regarding discriminatory carding and cover charges, as reported in BLK last month.

At stake in ABC's investigation of the Rage is the possible suspension or loss of its liquor license. The bar has filed a plea of innocent in the case.



Carles Tarver talks about "Spirituality" at the second Adodi retreat, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS." Over 80 men (and a few women) gathered July 21-23 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania for the biannual event. Photo by Phill Wilson.





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| AUGUST<br>SATURDAY                                                                           | SUNDAY                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5<br>Consciousness<br>Raising Raps<br>7:15 pm<br>at The Center<br>1213 N. Highland           | 6<br>BOWLING at the<br>Hollywood Star<br>Lanes on Santa<br>Monica Blvd<br>2:00 pm<br>(213) 738-7394 |
| 12<br>Consciousness<br>Raising Raps<br>7:15 pm<br>at The Center<br>1213 N. Highland          | 13<br>HIV Support<br>Potluck in<br>Long Beach<br>(213) 664-4716                                     |
| 19<br>Consciousness<br>Raising Raps<br>7:15 pm<br>at The Center<br>1213 N. Highland          | 20                                                                                                  |
| 26<br>Consciousness<br>Raising Raps<br>7:15 pm<br>at The Center<br>1213 N. Highland          | 27<br>Simon Nkoli                                                                                   |
| September 2<br>Consciousness<br>Raising Raps<br>7:15 pm<br>at The Center<br>1213 N. Highland | 3<br>LABOR DAY PICNIC                                                                               |

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## Superstars Raise Funds in N.Y.C. to Combat AIDS

NEW YORK—Superstars Whitney Houston; her mother, veteran soul and gospel vocalist Cissy Houston; and her cousin, legendary songstress Dionne Warwick recently joined together for Dionne Warwick's second annual Benefit Gala Weekend for AIDS. The Warwick Foundation will also raise funds to go toward establishing a center for the children and infants with AIDS.

Warwick also was joined by show biz friends Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Gladys Knight, Patti LaBelle, Luther Vandross, Cyndi Lauper, Blair Underwood, Byron Allen, Rita Coolidge, Gregory Hines, Kiara, Stephanie Mills, Tony Orlando, Mary Wilson, Bebe & Cece Winans, and others for the benefit.

Warwick has used her fame to help good causes ever since she hit the big time with her 1962 debut hit record, "Don't Make Me Over."

"I feel that my talent is to be shared and if it can garner a result, then I'm going to share it. I think I echo that with most entertainers."

She adds, "I've always done things, but I've never really paid attention to the things I've done because I've wanted to do them. Nobody held a gun at my head and said, 'You've got to go here for the B'nai Brith, or you've got to go here for the sickle cell anemia,' I did it because I wanted to."



Anthony Randall walked off with first prize in the First Annual Mr. Gold Coast Modeling Competition held last month at the Catch One Disco. The 26-year-old bodybuilder hails from Nevada. Second place went to Walter McDowell and third went to Jay Buxton. The event was produced by Marc Barthé.



# Billy Jones to Head Minority AIDS Program in D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National AIDS Network (NAN), one of the first national organizations to address AIDS-related issues of concern to minority populations, has appointed veteran AIDS educator and activist A. Billy S. Jones to head its Minority Affairs Program.

Jones joins NAN after serving three years as assistant director of education at the Washington, D.C.-based Whitman-Walker Clinic, an important AIDS education and service agency for the D.C. metropolitan area. At Whitman-Walker, he co-directed the AORTA Project, an educational AIDS outreach program aimed at prostitutes, IV drug users, the incarcerated, homeless and youth. Jones also developed AIDS-related training programs for a broad variety of populations, from correctional personnel to substance abusers in treatment programs.

In addition to his local work, he brings to NAN extensive national experience with HIV infection as it affects traditionally difficult to reach communities such as IV drug users..

According to NAN, its Minority Affairs Program "provides national leadership in focusing attention on the disproportionate impact of HIV infection on minority communities and provides support to local organizations serving racial and ethnic populations."

Prior to joining Whitman-Walker, Jones was coordinator of program and administration, west coast director, and executive director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. He previously served as director of administration for San Francisco's Advocacy for Youth Advocates, Inc.

Jones holds a B.S. degree in Business Administration and Accounting from Virginia State University and is an M.S.W. candidate at Howard University. He is also a certified alcohol and substance abuse counselor.

"Billy Jones is an exciting addition to the National AIDS Network," said Jim Holm, acting executive director of NAN. "He brings a national perspective on AIDS in racial and ethnic populations and, from working on the frontlines, a solid background in the community-based response to HIV disease."

Jim Graham, administrator of the Whitman-Walker Clinic and treasurer of NAN's board of directors, praises the significant contributions Jones made to the clinic's education program, particularly his success in working with hard-to-reach populations such as prostitutes, IV drug users and the incarcerated. "Truly Jones is an expert in this field. His experience with these minority populations will be an excellent foundation for his new responsibilities at NAN," says Graham.

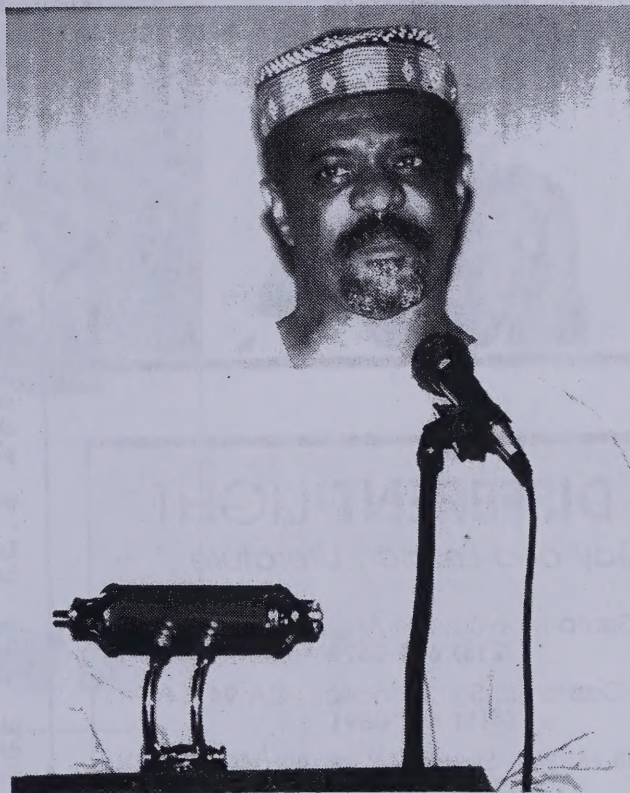
## Gay Alumni Organize

LOS ANGELES—To celebrate its recent formation and official university affiliation, Lambda Alumni, UCLA's lesbian and gay alumni association, is inviting all UCLA alumni to its first fundraiser, a tea dance to be held at Catch One Disco on Sunday, August 13, from 4 to 8 p.m.

According to a spokesperson, Lambda Alumni was created to provide a forum for cultural and intellectual exchange, an opportunity for professional and social networking, and a voice concerning UCLA campus issues such as curriculum and equal opportunity.

The group has already formed committees for scholarships, fundraising, career networking, social events, women's events, a publicity newsletter, the dinner with friends program, and the campus action committee.

The next general meeting of the group will be July 25 on the campus. For more information, call 213-281-7927.



A. Billy S. Jones. Photo by Jim Marks.

## Hughes Estate Protests Movie Exhibition in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (LAT)—The Langston Hughes estate has sent a cease and desist letter to Isaac Julien, director of *Looking for Langston*, a study of homosexuality during the Harlem Renaissance. In June, Julien was informed that exhibition of his film would put him, the film's distributor and the director of a film festival in legal jeopardy.

The film deals with intimate bonds between gay blacks and whites and Hughes's poetry is used as a voiceover in parts of the movie. Apparently Julien had secured the rights to quote Hughes's poetry for showings of the film only in Britain. But according to Ada Griffin, director of the New York-based Third World Newsreel, the film's distributor, the estate was actually appalled at any inference that Hughes, who died in 1967, might have been gay and that's why they wanted to excise all mention of him from the film.

The Hughes estate made four formal demands: delete all of Hughes's poetry, delete all mention of the estate in the credits of the film, delete all excerpts of Hughes reading his poetry on NBC television and pay for the estate's legal expenses.

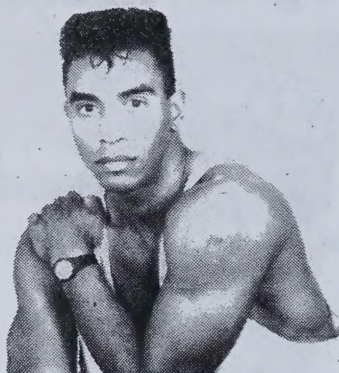
Julien says he will delete the poetry but he will not comply with the request to delete the NBC footage because it is in public domain. He said he has no intentions of paying the estate's legal expenses.

*Looking for Langston* had been scheduled to open the seventh Los Angeles International Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival.



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## Black Hustler Guilty in Stabbing of Eye Doctor

LOS ANGELES—Allen Lindsey, 23, a hustler who claimed he killed a Newport Beach ophthalmologist in self-defense has been convicted of involuntary manslaughter. After two days of deliberations, the jury found the Hollywood resident guilty of the least serious charge involving a homicide.

Deputy Public Defender Anthony Kies said Lindsey was disappointed that he wasn't cleared of the stabbing death of Dr. Boonkird Chulapatrchevin on January 19.

Lindsey, he said, "still maintains his innocence, so, in that regard, he is disappointed [with the verdict]," Kies said. He added, however, that Lindsey realized the jury could have found him guilty of the much more serious charge of second-degree murder, and for that he was pleased.

"I think the whole thing was a tragedy, but a tragedy put in motion by the deceased," Kies said.

Deputy District Attorney Tom Borris said he believed Lindsey murdered the physician at his Newport Beach home, then stole the doctor's Mercedes-Benz.

"Our office believed there was sufficient evidence to convict him of murder, or we wouldn't have prosecuted," Borris said. "[But] I'm satisfied with the verdict, as long as [the jury] followed the law."

During the trial Lindsey testified that the doctor picked him up in Hollywood, paid him \$100 for sexual favors and drove him to Newport Beach. While Lindsey was taking a shower, Chulapatrchevin suddenly attacked him with a knife, Lindsey testified. They struggled in the bathroom and the bedroom, where the doctor accidentally fell on the knife as Lindsey held it, he said.

Lindsey was arrested six days later when he was spotted driving the Mercedes-Benz in Hollywood.

During closing arguments, Borris told the jury that Lindsey was a known liar whose testimony couldn't be believed. "There were only two people there that night and one ain't talking and the other's story is incredible," Borris said. "The physical evidence shows that Mr. Lindsey's story is not true."

## Rue's House to Get \$

LOS ANGELES—Rue's House, a residential home for women and children with AIDS scheduled to open this month, will receive the proceeds from a benefit to be held at Catch One Disco August 20 at 3 p.m. Called "Come Play with Ivy at Pico Beach," the fundraiser also celebrates the birthday of Ivy Bottini, a well-known community activist and president of the Stonewall Democratic Club.

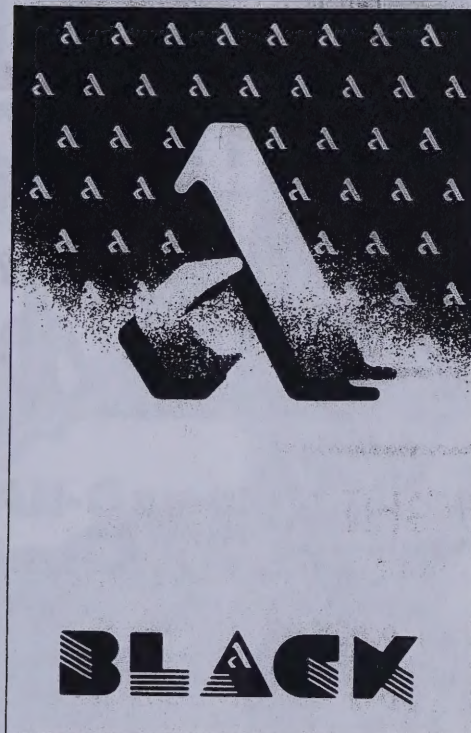
Rue's House will be the only boarding home in the country providing shelter exclusively for women and children with AIDS. Rue Thaïs, along with her lover Jewel Williams, created the house as their personal response to AIDS. The residence is located on 39th Place near Normandie in South Central.

The event, which is being sponsored jointly by the Stonewall Democratic Club and Catch One Disco, is subtitled "a celebration of Ivy's '24th Annual 39th' Birthday to Benefit Rue's House."

Admission of \$10 includes food. For more information, contact Rue's House, Box 37036, Los Angeles, CA 90037, 213-295-4030; Stonewall Democratic Club, Box 38812, Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-969-1735; or Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-734-8849.



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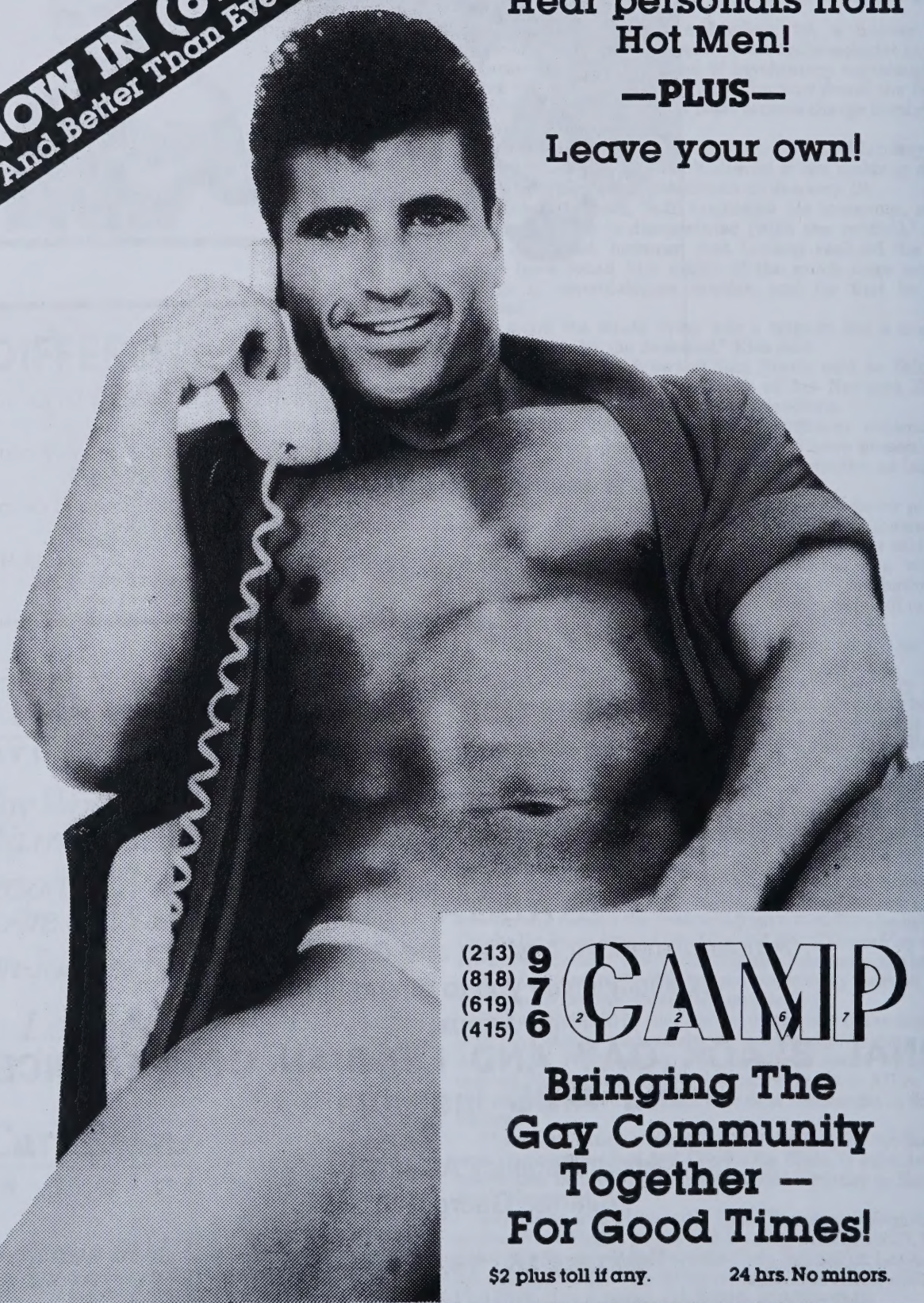


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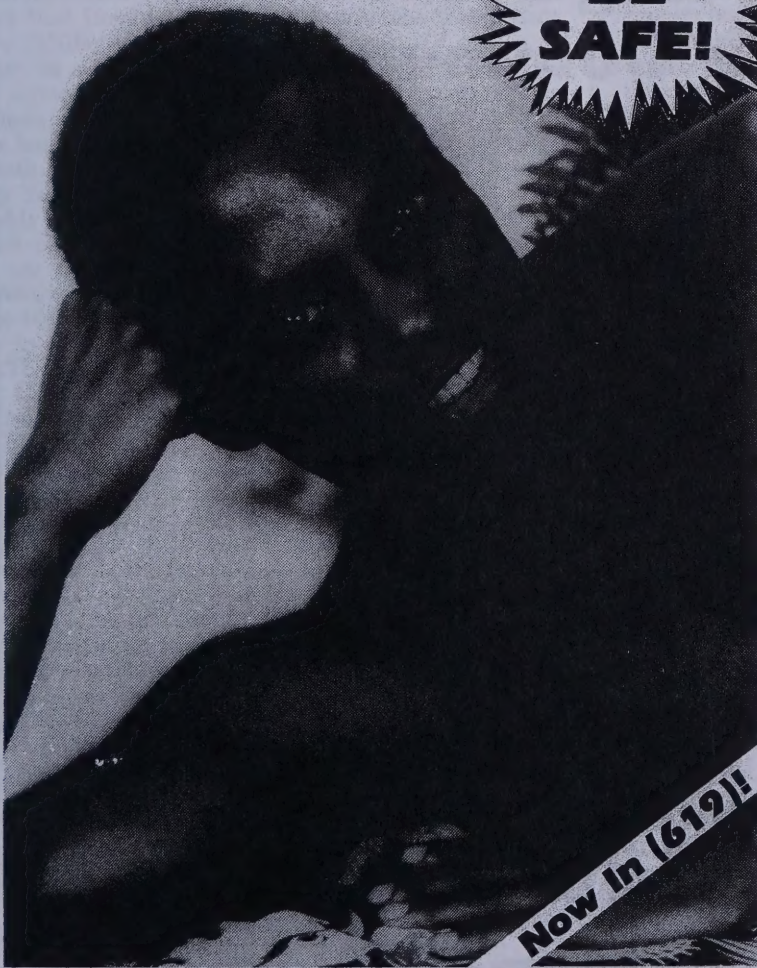


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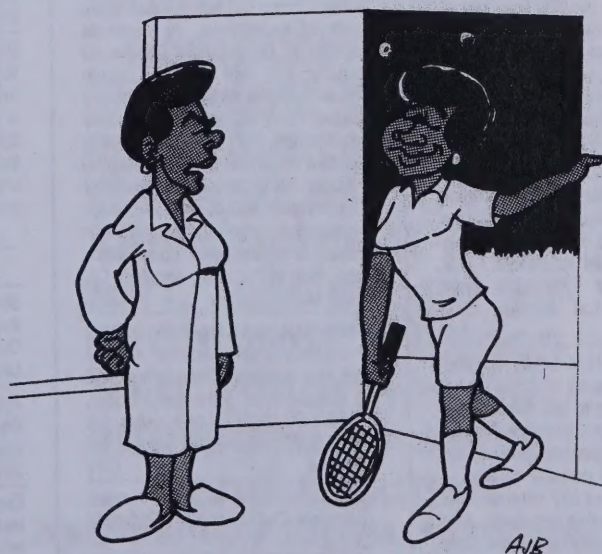


# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

The claim that the men and girls of the NABWMT can have fun *anywhere* was put to test last month when this group of *black and white men* who like to be *together* took over Tallahassee. They *do* grow some big, healthy boys down there—and the weather isn't the only thing that's hot—but could that possibly make up for the rain, humidity and bloodthirsty mosquitoes? Tally is literally the arm-pit of Florida. And don't take my word for it: look at a map ... Tallahassee's **Ollie-Lee Taylor** laid on the show, and managed—almost single-handedly—for the 100-odd members of the **National Association of Black and White Men Together** to have a good time...The setting was **Osceola Hall at Florida State University**, one of the more modern buildings on an extensive campus that featured more Spanish moss than ivy. This year's celebration of the joy of integrated love coincided with new student orientation at Osceola. At least one sweet young thing was hastily withdrawn by her parents after both got an education they didn't bargain for. "There are men kissing in the lobby," came the report to the administration. Kissing? Probably an understatement. Wasn't this the same group the staff of the Park East Hotel in Milwaukee dubbed the "Zebra Butt Bangers (ZBBs)" at the 1987 convention?...Of course, a dormitory is not a hotel and you don't expect the same kind of service. If you didn't bring your own towels, sheets and pillows, you had to make friends quickly. For some, it brought back memories of staying at the YMCA in innocent youth. But any resemblance to the Good Old Days in Big City Ys ended there...Drive-by shoutings seemed to be reasonably popular with the gangs of under-20 white males on campus. Typically, a cry of "faggots!" shot out from a car window moving at about 35 miles per hour. More creative, though not in any better taste, was hanging separate black and white teddy bears by their feet from a window in effigy across the street from the student residence...The convention docket itself gave food for thought rather than fireworks. The very politically-correct **MACT/NY** delegation was there—Men of at Least Two or Three Different Colors (if not quite all)—insuring, as usual, that everyone had something to feel slightly guilty about. Maybe it was just as well that the Atlanta delegation left its confederate flags at home. Still, everyone was slightly mellow. There is something about being under attack from outside that makes even the most antithetical reluctant to claw each other to death...Besides the speeches and workshops, this group of party people found plenty of time for kibitzing with old friends and searching the bars for new ones. **Irwin Rothenberg**, the Memphis Free Condom Man, swept into Tally with his usual collection of terrible jokes. The slightly more adventurous, who had wheels, found their way to **Billy's**, the beer and wine joint on the edge of town where the cream of Tally gay society rises to the top. They met the local talent and certainly livened up the weekdays...Cupid seems to have shot an arrow through the hearts of **Sterling Stone** from Columbus and **Robert Dingle** from Baltimore, both of whom are likely to run up the large phone bills only a long-distance love affair can generate. Sterling, last seen at the 1985 convention in Los Angeles, returned gorgeous as ever, and the notorious **Don Ransom** from Philadelphia had plenty to catch up with (and to confess to) after missing out in Boston last year. Now, much involved with **BEBASHI** in his hometown, he was active in the workshops on safer sex

and on dealing with substance abuse...Tally's part-time downtown gay bar, the **Club Park Avenue**, hosted a talent show that showed what a scarce commodity talent really is. **Miss Raisa Buck** (aka **Mike Warner**) from Memphis appeared once again wearing the Same Old Thing. It was a consensus: Miss Buck badly needs a new dress. Maybe from some bigger, taller girl's shop? **Charlene** (aka **Craig Jackson**) from Boston proved once and for all that she can't carry a tune in a basket...July 4th featured an outing to Wakulla Springs, a tourist spot and day trip center. The elegant lodge was formerly a private residence; now house, grounds, beach and all is open to the public. The first load of conventioners to drift down the raging waters of the Wakulla River did so with a failed rudder. The group might have been headed for a great sea trip (the river flows nine miles straight into the Gulf), but the helmsman, backing up, swinging and dodging, did the 200 yards back to the mooring in 45 minutes going on 45 hours, as the quietly panicked passengers observed watched their loved ones waving from the dock above alligator-infested shore...After that ill-omened start, and a ride in a boat with much better steering, the first group joined the rest of the conventioners to soak up some of the famous Florida sun. And some were prepared to soak up the maximum by wearing the absolute minimum. **Eric Perez** from New York was seriously courting an arrest for indecent exposure by showing almost all of his behind (proving he can be cheeky in more ways than one), and enough body metal to shoe a horse. But just as the police were wondering whether making an example of Eric was worth the trouble, God intervened, lightning flashed, thunder boomed and the rain lashed down. Taking refuge in a convenient gazebo, the erstwhile Lady Godiva and friends ate their box lunches and waited for the rain to stop. **Leslie the Lesbian Lifeguard** stopped by to compare notes. "How did she know we were gay?" asked one of the more brilliant in the group later...Meanwhile, those who had not wanted or needed the rays were enjoying a lovely lunch with linen napkins and all the other piss elegant accessories in the lodge dining room, or like **John Bush**, were socializing in the enclosed terrace, sitting in comfortable wicker chairs framed by ferns in polished brass planters. It takes all kinds, I guess.



"You look like you've had plenty of serves but not at any tennis court."



# BLK MARKET

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Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Sales experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (9)

Health education director. Manage AIDS education and prevention program. Must have MPH or commensurate experience in health education; minimum of two years supervisory experience; demonstrated community-based experience with black and Latino populations; sensitivity to issues of AIDS among minorities, especially gay and bisexual black and Latino men. Call Minority AIDS Project 213-936-4949. (9)

Houseman. Older white man wants versatile houseman. Cook, gardener, driver, masseur, handyman. Live-in plus salary. Need references. Jack, Box 322, Suite 109, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046 (10)

Interviewers. Black C.A.R.E. (Community AIDS Research and Education) Project is looking to hire several men and women to conduct interviews with black gay and bisexual men. Other positions include persons certified to draw blood and an HIV counselor. All part-time with flexible schedules. Also full-time administrative assistant. Must have grant management, university and accounting experience. Dr. Vickie Mays, UCLA. 213-206-5159. (11)

Nursing Clinical Coordinator/AIDS Hospice. Excellent salary and benefits for an experienced RN. LVN positions also available. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, L.A. 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (10)

Social worker (LCSW). Manage client services program including case management, in-home care, housing, practical support, psychosocial support and volunteer services. Must have minimum of two years supervisory experience; demonstrated community-based experience with black and Latino populations; sensitivity to issues of AIDS among minorities, especially gay and bisexual black and Latino men. Call Minority AIDS Project 213-936-4949. (9)

Writer/researcher to help with the BLK column, "Word Up." Must be creative, interested in seeking out the unusual and willing to put your nose in where it doesn't belong. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (9)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Step, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

## WANTED

Black Lace, the first erotic magazine ever produced by and for African American lesbians, welcomes submissions of poetry, short stories, essays (political essays most welcome), and hot fantasy letters reflecting your erotic interests/ experiences. All materials considered. Expect Black Lace to be raunchy, hot and tastefully done! Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced. None will be returned unless accompanied with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Unless otherwise indicated, all fantasy letters accepted for publication will be printed anonymously. Submissions should be addressed to Alycee Lane, Editor, Black Lace, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also accepted. Send with SASE to Revon Kyle Banneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

Nude Talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (9)

Black male nude models and men that like/desire to show their stuff. New! Black Stallion magazine needs your

photos and stories, ads, etc. Also enter our "big dick" contest!!! Send photos to: C.P.S., Inc., Suite 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., L.A., CA 90028. (9)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Literate, GWM, ex-New Yorker, ex-theatrical stage manager, thirty-something, seeks roommate, any race, to share two-bedroom, grand piano-equipped Echo Park home. Not looking for a sex partner or even a "best friend," but an occasional intelligent conversation would be nice, as would an interest in keeping the house and yard in good order with being prodded. HIV status unimportant, but references are. Security and rent negotiable. Ted 213-250-1365. (9)

GWM to share 2 bedroom, 1 bath house in Hacienda Heights with GBM straight-acting. No drug or alcohol. Employed person. \$280 month including utilities and kitchen privileges. Quiet area. Call George 818-369-6350. (10)

## FOR SALE

AIDS is biological warfare. Call 213-977-0901. (14)

Hot Black Men—The East Coast's best black men are in photographs by Weems-Works, now available in erotic photosets or art prints. For sample and brochure, mail request stating age (over 21) and \$10 to David Weems, c/o Weems-Works, Box 22886, Baltimore, MD 21203. (TF)

Gay male video available by mail order. Send \$1.00 for list to: W. Hall, Box 40496, Dept. Blk, Pasadena, CA 91114-7496. (9)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Shiatsu/acupressure by licensed legitimate professional. \$45 for 90 minutes. Out only. I'm 6', 180 lbs., muscular, blond. 213-655-2452. (E)

Australian Rick, blond, blue, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40, offers hot massage, hot spa, warm conversation. Only \$40 in. 213-259-8485. (E)

Every inch is brought alive and relaxed. \$50 and travel if outside Hollywood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (10)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

WM, 45, seeks dominant BM for good times. Doug. 604-263-3991 (Vancouver). (9)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

GWM, 55, slim, active life, gym-oriented, horseback riding, home life and more. Enjoy most sex. Seeking a younger dominant black man with similar tastes. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (11)

Am interested in meeting people who like meeting people. Am 47 years old. Like easy-going, yet serious people. Love nature. G.E., Box 2202, St. Augustine, FL 32085. (9)

Professional GWM seeks BM friend. Be adventurous! Box 284, Hartford, CT 06141-0284. (9)

GWM, 40s, 5'7", 135 lbs., G.p. F.a/p wishes to meet masculine black and/or Hispanic men to mutually explore the possibilities from lust to love. Write: Skip, 22 Benson Ave., Pennsville, NJ 08070. (9)

Black male, attractive, 5'11", 179 lbs., cut and hung, intelligent, very clean and healthy, discreet and masculine, 53 years. I am active/passive, Greek/French. Seek black male the same, or active. 40 to 70. No drugs, feds, hustlers, or anything kinky. Boxholder, Box 2223, Trenton, New Jersey 08607-2223. (9)

## PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

GWM wants relationship. Dennis Pittman #882430, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (11)

Slim WM. 517-484-6505, Box 4222, E. Lansing, MI 48826. (10)

GWM, professional; 37, 6'2", 180 lbs. would like to meet/correspond with men of diverse cultural backgrounds. Romance, with affection, are important aspects that I would like to share. Write Rod, Box 8257, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. (10)

Attractive, hot, horny white male seeking attractive, hot black male with a smooth bubble butt to work safely. No drugs, feds or feds. Send photo. Box 7415, Dallas, TX 75209. (9)

Texas BM seeks friends and possibly more from across the country. No drugs or stereotypes. Am mature and professional and seek the same. A Jones, 5951 Melody Lane, Dallas, TX 75231. (9)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms.



Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

## PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

Attractive black ex-dancer, affectionate, 6', 190 lbs., middle-aged, professional, financially independent, into the arts, safe sex and athletic types, looking for similar person. One-to-one relationship possible. Black, Latino or white okay. Send P/P to: 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-247, West Hollywood, CA 90046. (9)

Hot New York Rican seeking butch Latinos and mix blacks with thick bichos. Willie. 213-657-2539. (12)

Are you ready for the real thing? Muscular, lean, goodlooking, GWM, 35 wants a muscular, goodlooking, intelligent GBM who enjoys the comfort and excitement real intimacy brings. It happens over time, but it starts now! Bill 415-431-2656. (10)

Ex-football jock, GWM, 6'3", 250#, 50 y/o seeks hot hung black or Latin top. If you enjoy hot times with very straight acting professional—new to area—send photo and phone # to Box 191, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. Rel. pos. (9)

Puerto Rican, 22, 5'10", seeking a BM who is masculine, unpredictable, romantic and spirited for a monogamous relationship. 213-679-0575. (9)

GWM seeks BM over 25, drugg-free in the Inglewood area. No fems. Send name and telephone number to BLK Box #8. (9)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (11)

A very handsome. Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (9)

Black man wanted by slim, young, attractive GWM. 415-923-0278. (11)

GM, half-Japanese/white, seeks sincere GBM for friendship. 213-396-5161. (11)

Lincoln, Elton D.: Where are you? I'm worried. Call me. Get my # from 411, West Hollywood. lggy. (11)

Muscular short, good-looking blond, hazel, excellent body/mind. Look 36, very affectionate, versatile, moderately hairy, hot bottom, educated, spiritual, non-smoker. Seeks attractive thin-to-athletic GBM top. Letters with photos get early response. Jim, 11288 Ventura Blvd. #327, North Hollywood, CA 91604. (10)

Blond bottom, 6'4", 190, wants thin 21-30. Don 213-281-6138. (11)

Good-looking GWM, 5'11", 37, 190 lbs., looking for HIV+ black top man for safe sex and companionship. Enjoy running, tennis and most sports; R&B music and the theater. Want an athlete with an intellect and curiosity about the world. Write Steve at BLK Box #7. (9)

Are you looking for a handsome, smooth-skinned Italian who knows how to take it? I'm 32, 5'8", 140 lbs. and want hot times at my place. 213-656-9015. (10)

Occasional head available by French-active, educated workaholic, basically

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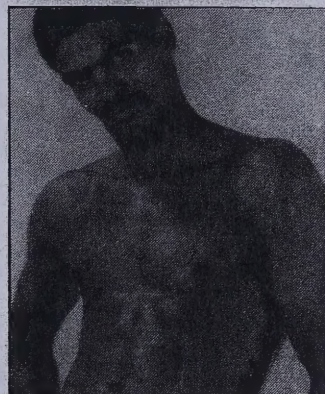


Photo: Kristen Bjorn — Carnaval In Rio

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- **Box number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK box for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.
- **Replying to a BLK box.** Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

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 BLK Classifieds  
 Box 83912  
 Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

- **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

Please complete and sign the following. This information will not appear in your ad.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

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Deadline: Third Friday of the month prior to publication.

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\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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straight but enjoys accommodating professionals (F/M/Cpls/TS's) who love receiving erogenous/therapeutic oral service. Reciprocation unnecessary! Hung under (5") welcome! No smoke/drugs! Home/phone necessary: 619-265-2102. (10)

Commitment: Black male, 38, G/P seeks sincere Gr/A man, 40-55, with old-fashioned values. Like 1-to-1, homelife and nature. Any race. Mel 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (answering service) (12)

Masculine, black, very attractive, discreet, educated, athletic male, 5'11", 185 lbs., 39, seeking masculine, romantic, dominating, safe sex, mature, black male for one-to-one. Jay 714-786-3258. Irvine, CA. (10)

Sexy GWM top seeks cute GBM bottom for safe, serious relationship. My interests include romance, cooking, theater, jazz, spirituality. 213-876-5871. (10)

Hot, handsome, in-shape GWM, 47, 5'10", 160 lbs., seeks handsome GBM for friendship and much more. Call James. 714-336-1305. (9)

Creole male, good-looking, 30, 5'8", 145#, seeks Puerto Rican, brown Latin or brown men with big buns and nice build. Very hairy a plus. Should be versatile. Call Pat 818-892-5283. (9)

BM wants handsome, masculine bottom who enjoys being in photos. D.P., Box 84174, L.A., CA 90073. (9)

Black man wanted by slim, young, attractive GWM. 415-923-0278. (10)

Commitment: B/M G/P seeks a sincere G/A man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1 and nature. M.T., Box 712071, Los Angeles 90071. (11)

BiBM, 34, 6', 175, hot, safe, total top, masculine, good-looking, hung 10x6 seeks hot, masculine, bottom. Photo/phone to Box 29243, Los Angeles 90027. (9)

Very attractive GBM, 22, 6'0", 170 lbs., relationship material, new to area, seeks under 33, good-looking GM, any race, drug free, safe sex, educated. BLK Box #6. (10)

Horse-hung guys wanted by masculine, hot, blonde boy. I'm 22, tan, slim, smooth, and seek guys hung 10" or more and XXX thick for service and safe fun. Nude photo a must to MJ, 8033 Sunset #411, L.A. 90046. (9)

Fine white dude, healthy, hung seeks big black dick. Mutual. Safe. 213-281-6998. Be all man. (Uncut a plus.) (9)

Tight body and hot, white butt wants black dudes with a least 9x6 who know how to work ass. 213-656-5371. (10)

Write attractive GWM: Boke, 2110 Ninth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. (10)

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160 lbs. quiet, pleasant natured, drug-free, wishes to meet black, married, educated with good body for regular meetings with utmost discretion and safety assured. You be 6'2", + 30-40 yrs., big skin 7+, top, and

be genuine, sincere and who wants the best of both worlds. Photo appreciated and returned. No games. Only the serious need apply. BLK Box #4. (9)

Asian, 33, 5'9", seeks athletic 20-35 for safe relationship. 415-827-9973. (9)

2 GWM seek well-hung GBM for safe sex. Box 74030, L.A., CA 90004. (9)

Blonde, blue-eyed GM, 45, 5'10", 175 pounds, good body, big arms, seeks black or Latin male, 20-40, thin or muscular, well-hung, top for safe sex. Call 213-285-3579. Leave message. (9)

Hot WM, 38, blond/blue, tan, moustache, wants to meet attractive BM, 20-40, intelligent, sense of humor important. Ph/ph to: Box 8107, Glendale, CA 91224. (9)

Are you a dark GBM, under 29, who enjoys dancing, bodybuilding and is self-sufficient? If yes, and you like what follows, contact me at BLK Box #3. I am 6'1", 151 lbs., 22 years old, fair and in the process of muscular development. Seeking workout partner with interest in a 1-on-1 relationship. (9)

Stocky, white male, 49 (interests: music, travel, intimate moments) seeks black top buddy, 49-65, sensuous, intelligent, caring. 415-527-4460 or write Bill, Box 9369, Berkeley, CA 94709. (9)

Michael Rucker: Miss ya. Writel Box 18A255, L.A., CA 90018. (9)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, California 90004. (11)

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hollywood, CA 91607. (8)

Uncut, good-looking, African-born white European, muscular, clean-shaven, blue eyes, 29, 5'11", 175 seeks intelligent, masculine, tall, very muscular, hunky black bodybuilder for friendship. Box 69A27, L.A. 90069. (8)

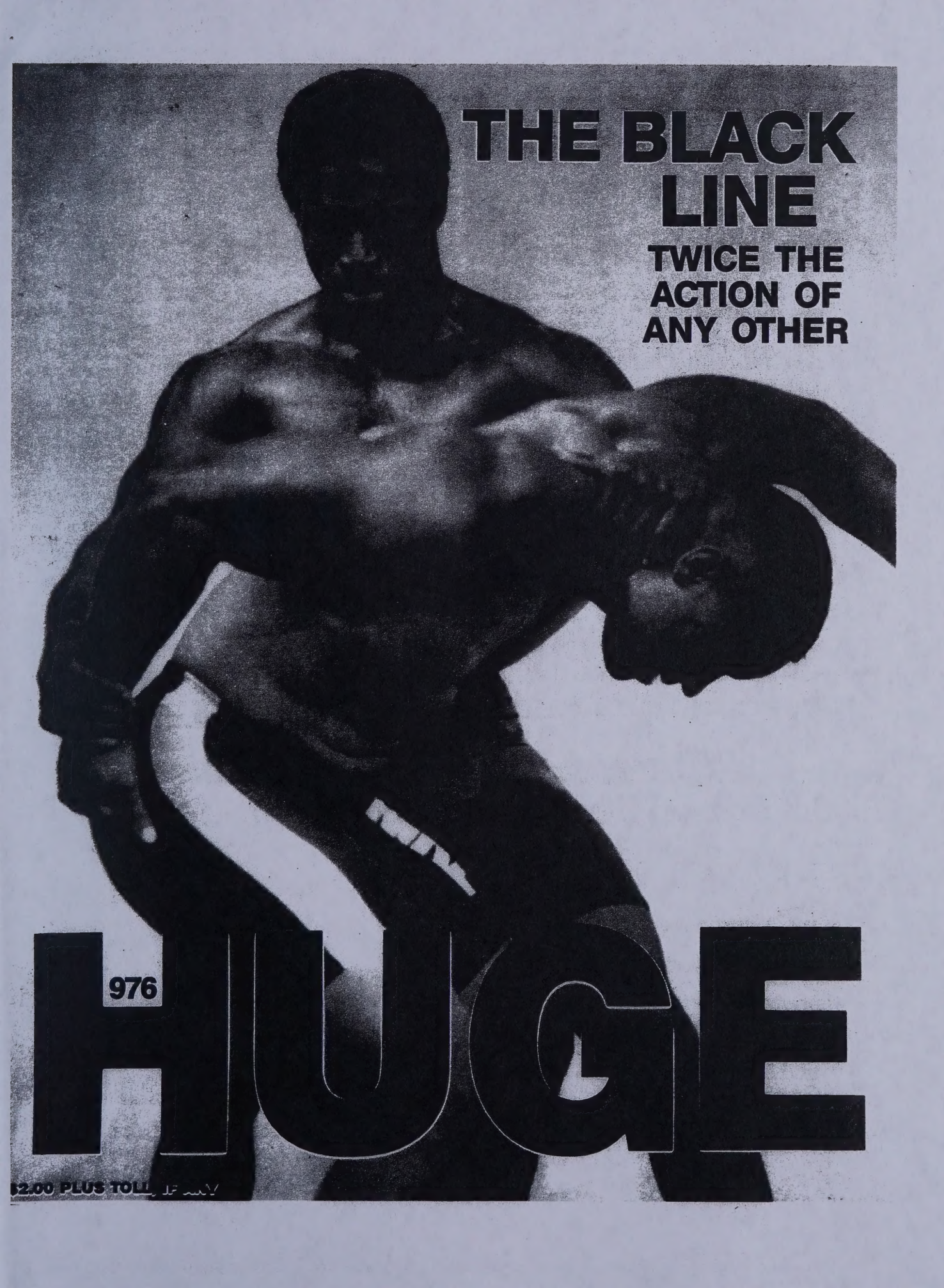
In-shape older black gentleman with 8" wants to watch 2 young black bucks play in the dark. No participation necessary. Will pay expenses. Discretion essential. Warren, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233. (8)

Free massage for fit, smooth BM with big buns by WM, 36, professional, 6'0", 173 lbs. Mike 213-483-1517. (8)

Handsome, 60, top, British, seeks creative tongue. Hairy a plus. Pic/phone. Under 45. 8721 Santa Monica #155, L.A. 90069. (8)

GWM interested in getting together with a top GBM, well hung 9"+, to hump these tight buns at my place in the San Gabriel Valley for a good relationship and good safe sex. If interested, please call 818-369-6350. If no answer, please leave message. You won't be sorry. (8)





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# BLK

Number 1







## *Because we care...*

**We provide the following services:** • medical and legal referrals • residential shelter • emergency food and food bank referrals • medical transportation • benefit assistance • individual and group counseling • "buddy" volunteer assistance.

**And we provide the following AIDS education and training services:** • "training the teacher" programs • community outreach • in-service training • business and professional seminars • speaker's bureau.

## *Want to know more...*

**Call 213-936-4949** anytime day or night. We're here to help. Because we care.

# *Minority AIDS Project*

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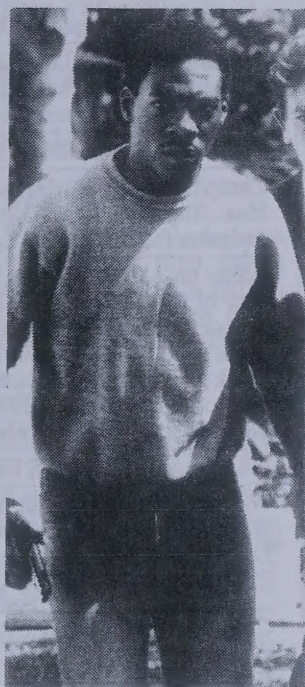
# WORD UP



## Enlightened Self Interest

In the cut, "Clap Your Hands," from his new album, *Walking with a Panther*, L.L. Cool J boasts "I'm so bad I can suck my own dick."

Maybe, but this remains an unconfirmed report as neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union nor BLK was able to perform on-site verification.



## The Eddie Doth Protest

In a cover story *Rolling Stone* interview, Eddie Murphy says: "I've heard everything about myself. The most ridiculous rumor was that I was a faggot. I don't know where that came from. I've never had a dick in my ass or in my mouth!"

Yes, but... Oh, never mind.

## Dis This Jam

As dope as rap can be, it continues to be among the most homophobic of new art forms. The following is an excerpt from "Truly Yours" written by Kool G Rap & Marley Marl, and performed by Kool G Rap and D.J. Polo. The jam's on the Cold Chillin' label distributed by Warner Bros. Records.

*Background:*

You should dis her man. I hear he's a homo anyway.

*Vocal:*

Listen, up Money, or should I say Honey?

You're lookin' much sweeter than a Playboy Bunny. fingernails south, your hair is styled

And the jams that you wear look hot and wild.

Everybody says is he, some kind of sissy?

Your name was Moose, but now they call you Missy.

Night or daylight, you fought for the gay rights.

I thought you would stay bright,

But you want to play fight

With men. And Len?

Your real close friend?

But you wouldn't be his friend if his knees didn't bend.

You're not a lady dear, you're a square and a queer.

Berets in your hair, bamboos in your ear.

Runnin' in cars. Hangin' out in gay bars.

Winkin' your eyes at guys that wear bras.

Skin-tight levis and even knee-highs,

Don't try to lie sugar, I know why.

In the ladies bathroom, spraying on perfume,

Stuffin' your T-shirt with two balloons.

You don't think about the opposite sex at all.

Instead of sugar walls, you have a half a ball.

Way back in the days you was big as a cow,

But look at you now,

At jams you say "Owwwwwwwww."

A sex disease was as common as T.B.

But gays today get V.D. and free-D,

And that's called AIDS in case you didn't know,

And the only blow I'm givin' the knockout blow

Switchin' in your bandana, lookin' like Diana Ross.

From me, G-Rap, truly yours.

## Florida Black Man Lives 30 Years as Woman, Fools 2 Husbands and Adopted Son

When Georgia Black died in June 1951, it ended a 30-year masquerade for George Cantey, who had managed to marry twice and adopt a son—all without revealing his true gender.

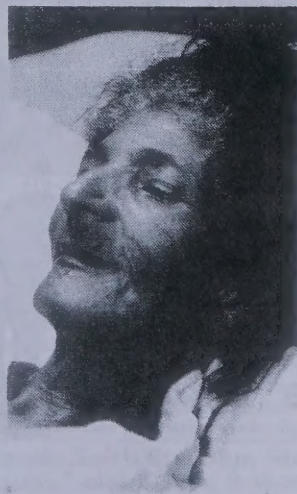
According to an article in *Jet*, the beloved Stanford, Florida resident confessed the bizarre tale on his deathbed, only after the county physician examined the ailing Black and found that his patient had all the physical characteristics of a man.

Black, however, insisted

shortly before his death that fate intended him to be a female, dismissing his male organs as "growths" adding that he never had any emotional feeling for a woman.

Even when the truth was known, few people in the town of Sanford believed it, and even those who did, said it didn't matter. To them, Georgia Black was a good person.

"I don't care what Georgia Black was," said one wealthy resident for whom Black did domestic work. "She nursed mem-



bers of our family through birth, sickness and death. She was one of the best citizens in town."

It was during her marriage to Alonzo Sabbe that the couple adopted a child. Their son, Willie, was the son of Black's cousin who came to visit him in Florida and deserted the child when he was just three weeks old. Willie, now a steelworker in Pennsylvania, was devoted to Black and often sent her gifts and money. He was astounded to learn of Black's true gender.



# BLK BOARD

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1989

Dinner with The Afro Sisters. Guest star: Miss Glen Meadmore. Cafe Largo, 432 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 p.m. 213-851-7743.

Entertainer contest sponsored by Imperial Court of South Bay. Buffet. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$3. 213-671-7323.

The Last Jack, the final regularly scheduled Black Jack safe sex party. Call 213-338-1516 for more information.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1989

Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Theatre will be the site of a benefit studio concert sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project. 8 p.m. \$15. 213-936-4949.

Epilogue, a party by First Class Productions. Mayflower Ballroom, 234 Hindry Ave., Inglewood, Calif. \$8. 213-285-3737.

Labor Day Barbeque. Caper Room, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, Calif. 11 a.m. 213-677-0403.

Jewel Williams and Rue Tha's tie the knot. 12:30 p.m. By invitation. Write Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90019.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1989

Annual Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles Picnic. Free hot dogs. Cherokee Park, corner Delongpre and Cherokee, Los Angeles, Calif. Noon. 213-664-4716.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Being Black and Gay on the Job." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

Annual Labor Day Picnic sponsored by Black and White Men

Together/Los Angeles. Call Rene at 213-664-4716.

Women's Softball League: Sudden Impact plays Connection at Poinsettia Recreation Center, 7341 Willoughby Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 6 p.m.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1989

Camp Mae West outing at Lake Arrowhead. Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. September 8-10, 1989. \$30 includes food and lodging. 213-664-4716.

Focus on AIDS II benefit for AIDS Project Los Angeles and City of Angels Hospice. Preview of major rare, vintage and contemporary photographs to be auctioned. Features the work of Robert Mapplethorpe, the famed photographer of black men, among others. Preview September 8-15, 1989; auction September 18, 1989. G. Ray Hawkins Gallery, 7224 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 7-9 p.m.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1989

Women's Softball League: Sudden Impact plays Friends/Jano at Poinsettia Recreation Center, 7341 Willoughby Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1989

Chapter One, a party by First Class Productions. Mayflower Ballroom, 234 Hindry Ave., Inglewood, Calif. \$8. 213-285-3737.

Summer Night Party. Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. 9 p.m. \$5 members, \$7 non-members. Call Ramon at 213-854-5761 for location.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1989

Benefit for Minority AIDS Project. Entertainment and buffet. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-9 p.m. 213-737-9678.

Regional Black Lesbians Conference Planning Committee. Monthly meetings now open to new participants, but will be closed for voting privileges with the October 1989 meeting. Black lesbians only. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd. 2:30-4:30 p.m. 213-293-1754.

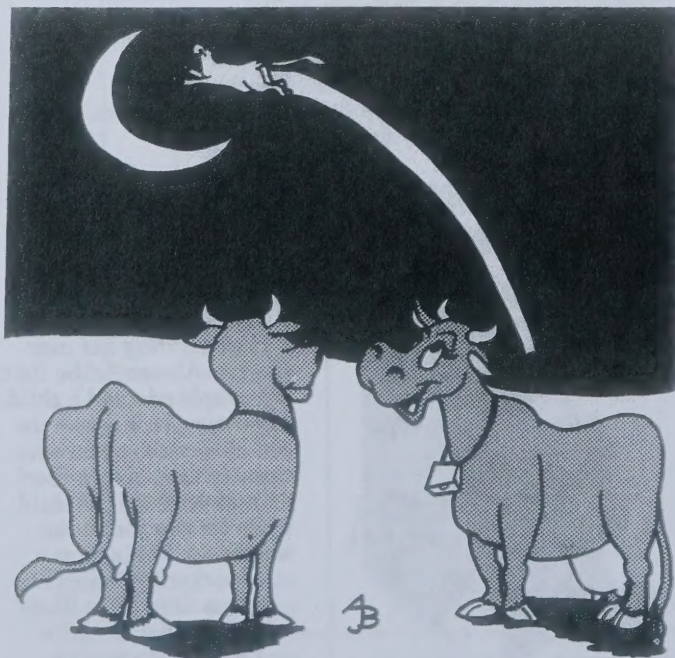
Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Being Gay and Dealing with One's Family." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1989

Focus on AIDS II benefit for AIDS Project Los Angeles and City of Angels Hospice. Benefit auction and party of major rare, vintage and contemporary photographs. Features the work of Robert Mapplethorpe, the famed photographer of black men, among others. Music, champagne and food. Palace, 1735 N. Vine St., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m. \$50. 213-652-5204.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1989

"Connections and Barriers: Exploring Internalized Homophobia for Women of Color and White Women" sponsored by Democratic Workplaces. Registration will be monitored to insure equal participation of women of color and white women. Workshop will be co-facilitated by a team composed of a person of color and a white person and it will be held in Hartford, Conn. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$55. Call 203-951-4496 or write to Democratic Workplaces, Box 6365, Hartford, Conn. 06106.



*"She must have finally made it with Sylvia."*



## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1989

17th Annual Court Investiture. Imperial Court of South Bay. Community people will be honored with titles. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 6 p.m. \$10. 213-671-7323.

Nude beach outing. Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. 11 a.m. 213-483-1108.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1989

Going Away Party for Bruce Johnson. Entertainment. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 4 p.m. 213-737-9678.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1989

Latina Lesbian Support Group will meet for six consecutive Tuesday evenings: September 26-October 31, 1989. *Series will be closed after the second session.* LAPIS, Alcoholism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Calif. 7-9 p.m. \$15, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay. 213-381-7805.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1989

Black Women's Support Group will meet for six consecutive Wednesday evenings: September 27-November 8, 1989. *Series will be closed after the second session.* LAPIS, Alcoholism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Calif. 7-9 p.m. \$15, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay. 213-381-7805.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1989

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "How Labels Can Limit People." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1989

"(this is not) an AIDS Reading" sponsored by Words Project for AIDS. Participants will include Essex Hemphill and Assotto Saint, among others. Proceeds to local AIDS organizations. Gallery Theater, Barnsdall Park, Hollywood Blvd. at New Hampshire Ave., Hollywood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$5.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989

"(this is not) an AIDS Reading" sponsored by Words Project for AIDS. Participants will include June Jordan and Essex Hemphill, among others. Proceeds to local AIDS organizations. Victoria Theater, 2961 - 16th St., San Francisco, Calif. 8 p.m. \$5.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1989

"Blacks, Sexuality and AIDS" is the title of a forum and of a videotape to be presented by the National Organization for Black County Officials, the Minority AIDS Project and the Counseling Services Dept. of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. King-Drew Medical Center, 12021 S. Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 1-4 p.m. Free.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1989

"Treatment Issues in Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men" sponsored by Democratic Workplaces. Workshop will be co-facilitated by a team composed of a person of color and a white person. YWCA, 135 Broad St., Hartford, Conn. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$45. Call 203-951-4496 or write to Democratic Workplaces, Box 6365, Hartford, Conn. 06106.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989

Sgt. Perry Watkins will be the keynote speaker at a special luncheon. The event is part of the "Creating Change" conference being sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force November 9-12, 1989. Call 202-332-6483 or write to NGLTF, 1517 U St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

# BLK MAIL

## Beyond Stereotypes

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your excellent coverage of Physique '89: the national lesbian and gay bodybuilding championships held the last weekend of June every year. Kathy Perkins and I have strived to go beyond the black/white, lesbian/gay femininity/masculinity stereotypes. Our short three minutes of freestyle presentation of muscle and beauty attempts to both please and awaken the eye.

Kathy Perkins  
Phill Barber  
San Francisco, Calif.

If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

# BLK

Number 10, September 1989

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Cover: Keith St. John. Story on page 6. Photo by Drea Leanza.



# Working Inside

## *Openly gay black attorney runs for city post in Albany, New York*

By Alan Smithee

**K**eith C. St. John is serious and soft-spoken. He talks about coalition building, about defeating his city's political "machine," about bringing people into the system. St. John is also an openly gay African-American making a bid for a seat as alderman on Albany, New York's 15-member Common Council, the equivalent of what is known as a city council in other cities.

Last year, St. John won a seat on the Albany County Democratic Committee and now seeks to represent the city's second ward, or councilmanic district. He will challenge two-term incumbent Arthur T. Scott, who is also black, in the city's Sept. 12 primary. The winner of the primary is the

### PROFILE

odds-on favorite to take the general election.

Albany's second ward is predominantly black and low-income, with about 2,500 registered Democrats, outnumbering registered Republicans three to one. There, the 31-year-old lawyer says, his sexuality has not been a hindrance. Interestingly, New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo and his family live in the second ward.

"I've been fortunate that I haven't had the kind of criticism one would expect about being as open as I am," St. John says. "I don't see it as that much of an issue given my other skills. Because I'm a lawyer I get more respect than if I were simply a gay advocate who's black."

The black community, he continues, "looks to me as a role model, as one who's succeeded and who's back in the community."

Being black and gay, St. John believes, "gives me another tool to illustrate injustices. Not only can I draw examples that are sexually based, but that are racially based to sensitize people. My mere presence moves those issues forward and does a service to the Democratic Party."

Since moving to Albany in 1985, St. John has worked for Legal Aid of Northeastern New York, where he has represented many people in the area. "My experience in representing poor and low-income people, especially in the second ward, made a lot of difference," he said.

Because of federal law, St. John had to leave Legal Aid in order to run for public office. On May 1, he joined the Albany law firm of Walter, Thayer, Long & Mishler. "I was really rewarded by helping people who couldn't help themselves and were left out of the system," St. John said of his years working with Legal Aid. "I decided that was my niche."

**H**owever, St. John grew up in surroundings somewhat different from the clients he now serves. He was raised by his mother in a black middle class neighborhood encircled by

whites. He attended predominantly white schools in White Plains, New York, located in largely white Westchester County.

Although he had some success as a child actor, appearing in television commercials for the likes of Total cereal, Con Edison, and Converse sneakers, his level-headed mother kept the glamour in perspective stressing scholarship and hard work. Indeed, he had a paper route from age 11 until college.

He says he never considered a show business career because, "I was still under the throes of my mother who insisted that I was going to be a doctor and my twin sister a dentist." At present, his sister works for a financial management firm in Boston.

St. John graduated from Valhalla High School with good grades and got a scholarship from a neighborhood association. He learned French in high school and picked up German on a 10-week American Field Service summer exchange program in Switzerland.

It was during this period when St. John was 16 that he experienced his first homosexual, but not "gay," he stresses, encounter. After he and a friend had explored a vacant house across the street, the two came back to the friend's house. "He had a darkroom," St. John recalls. "We went into the darkroom. And we started playing with each other. That continued off and on for a little while. A few months. And then I went away to college."

St. John attended Yale, but graduated from Vassar with a degree in economics. He attended Cornell Law School and received his J.D. in 1985.

"There was long period of time when I consider myself to have been homosexual, or more specifically a 'practicing homosexual,' but not 'gay.' I didn't come out—and that's

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### *Being black and gay "gives me another tool to illustrate injustices."*

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when I consider myself to have become really gay—until my first year in law school—January of 1983."

To him, being truly gay meant, "just being much more comfortable with it. And being proud of it and really not being ashamed of it anymore."

There was no specific incident that led to his coming out, St. John says. It was "just a sort of coming of age. I don't know. It didn't happen overnight, I don't think. But it just happened. Maybe it was because I was in my first year of law school and looking for some way to rebel. And not conform. And that might have been it. I just figured, you know, let's put another hole in my ear 'cause I think I'd had one and I wound up having as many as three holes in my left ear. It just came out. It was that simple."



"And I had a lot of support from some close friends of mine. And because it was becoming more and more real for me, it was also becoming more and more frustrating to keep it within me. It's very difficult to lead that double life much longer. I had close friends who I'd spent a lot of time with and it was exceedingly difficult to make up stories as to where I was for an hour here or a few hours there."

He says he doesn't think his sister knows of his sexuality even today.

The situation was different, however, with his mother. "It was my mother who to this day cannot understand it and will not understand it and just refuses to accept it. So there was a period of time when she wasn't talking to me and I was just basically cut off as having betrayed the church which I grew up in. She has never taken it well."

They have since reached an accord of sorts but the subject of homosexuality is never discussed. "We don't talk about it," he says.

St. John's father was "not a member of my family." His parents separated when he was two years old. The elder St. John visited occasionally, but there was little contact until two years ago when St. John had occasion to visit with his ailing father. They got "to know each other" and the young St. John came away feeling, for the first time, that he had a father who cared for him, contrary to what his mother would have him believe. His father died a month later. St. John says that now "I dedicate what I do to him."

St. John says that his decision to enter politics was not a recent one. It dates from high school. Furthermore, he was never worried that being gay would bar him from public office.

"I didn't worry about it," he says. "I think others did. My mother probably did. But I didn't because I'm very optimistic. I don't let those things get me down. If I did, then I probably wouldn't be where I am today. I'm very ambitious and so I don't let those things that I don't think are relevant get in my way."

St. John not only has faith in himself but in his party as well. In response to the common criticism that the Democratic Party takes the gay vote for granted, St. John is optimistic that the party will live up to its ideals.

"I look to the Democratic Party as being inclusive, understand. The minorities, people who are struggling to make America work for everybody, the Democratic party embraces that. At the local level, we're trying to do just that."

Still, he said, "I assume gay rights will become an issue in the campaign," noting that he will support legislation increasing protections for lesbians and gay men in housing and other areas. "I may introduce it myself," he added.

Fighting against discrimination is a priority with St. John. He testified on behalf of an Albany gay rights ordinance to protect lesbians and gay men from discrimination in housing and employment. The ordinance was introduced last year, but was voted down by the Common Council.

"We will continue to talk to members and build documentation of discriminatory practices. We are doing some more homework," St. John says.

However, he adds, "it would be naive to think that we can do that in Albany very quickly given New York City's battle [to pass gay rights legislation]." St. John estimated a five to ten year struggle to pass the ordinance in Albany, but is determined "to continue the dialogue."

The population in New York's state capital is "moderately conservative," St. John admits, but quickly adds, "there is an increasingly effective and powerful progressive movement in Albany. Over the course of the last five years, significant inroads [have been made]. More progressive [Democratic] committee people elected; more news coverage of progressive news items."

Still, he says, although the gay angle has been used dur-

ing the campaign, it hasn't been as well publicized as he thought it might. But St. John doesn't attribute that to a principled stance on the part of his opponent. He calls Scott "a nice person, but that doesn't mean he is completely ethical. Unfortunately, votes are bought around here," St. John says. St. John says little has been made of the gay issues because his opponent has skeletons in his closet that he'd like to leave undisturbed, and that the self-respect and standing he has among all segments of the Albany community would withstand any attempt to use the gay issue. "It would make them look bad," he says.

Recently, Albany celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion by offering 20 days of gay-related events. The gay community funded billboards commemorating the event that graced downtown Albany.

St. John views the Stonewall celebration as a sign of change and a challenge to the city's Democratic leadership, which he terms a "machine."

"The days when the party organization was strong are, for the most part, over because the patronage system doesn't play into hiring practices anymore. Years ago, the party was

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*"I don't let those things  
that I don't think are relevant  
get in my way."*

---

strong because it would get you a job," he says.

"People are broadening their horizons, becoming more socially conscious, being educated to something alternative. People are looking to others to take up those non-traditional causes [such as] gay rights, day care proposals, employment training programs," St. John remarks.

As a representative of the Capital District Lesbian and Gay Center on the Albany Community-Police Relations Board, St. John said he has had firsthand contact with the problem of police and community relations.

"I see my role on the board as being a watchdog, making sure that we can communicate to the public that the police are doing a good job," he said. "What frustrates us is that we are not given enough information to know if the complaints [against the police] are being thoroughly investigated." If elected to the Common Council, St. John said he would continue to sit on the board.

St. John said that he is interested in improving the quality as well as the quantity of housing for low-income people. "The buildup is in office space and not in housing space," he complained. "That runs counter to the notion of a 24-hour city. I would direct resources to improving the blighted neighborhoods."

"My theme is one of bringing leadership to my ward...empowering people so they feel included in the system and have a stake in it. I'm presenting to them something real good and positive."

St. John has no plans beyond his immediate race, "but I wouldn't rule out the possibility of running for the state legislature. But I don't think I'm going to do anything beyond that."

"I'm also concerned about my personal life. I've got a lover [Fred Holman] and I'm concerned about keeping that intact. It's been very, very difficult through the campaign."

"Difficult" perhaps, but not "impossible." Keith St. John doesn't seem to know the meaning of the word.

*The foregoing includes information from articles by Jeff Jones and Susan Lumenello.*



# BLK COMMUNITY NEWS

## Three Black Men Place in Super-Men Contest

LOS ANGELES—Three of the four black participants in the 1989 Super-Men Pageant were honored at the annual beefcake event produced by David Hodgson. Thirty-nine men showed off their assets in levi and swimsuit competitions before a panel of judges that included Nichelle Nichols, Loretta Devine and Tony Warren.



Carlis Sharpe

Carlis Sharpe (33, 5'11", 175 lbs., 44" chest) was awarded a plaque as third runner up, and was also one of the five finalists for best physique. The San Francisco resident was sponsored by Sierra Domino Photography.

The Mr. Congeniality award was presented to Chad Van Deepen (24, 6', 200 lbs., 44" chest) who was sponsored by the Laguna Health Club. Anthony Randall (26, 5'9", 175 lbs., 46" chest), sponsored by Mr. Gold Coast, was selected to be one of the ten finalists for the top honors. Lee McMillan (25, 6'1", 180 lbs., 40" chest), also one of the Super-Men contestants, was sponsored by the Santa Fe Bar in West Hollywood.

Entertainment was provided by Tony Warren and Loretta Devine who sang several selections including "Bridge Over Troubled Waters." Rex Chandler, sponsored by Associated Video Group, took home the top prize as Super-Man for 1990.



Tony Warren



Nichelle Nichols and Loretta Devine

## Shanti Gets \$80K Grant

LOS ANGELES—The Shanti Foundation announced recently that it had received an \$80,000 contract for the 1989-90 fiscal year from the United Way for the funding of a volunteer coordinator's position providing services to the black community.

The volunteer coordinator will be responsible for a number of duties including initial client intake, maintaining client files, volunteer support, compiling statistics, speaking engagements and updating information and referral sources.

## MECLA Selects Board

LOS ANGELES—The Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) has elected its new board of directors for 1989-1990. Re-elected as co-chairs at the June 5th meeting were Bevan Dufty and Jackie Gelfand.

"The 90s will be a political turning point for our community," said co-chair Dufty. "We can end Deukmejian's legacy by electing a progressive governor, re-establish California's leadership in civil rights and public health policies, and use reapportionment to open doors of elective office to gay and lesbian candidates."



# Board Calls for Dismissal of Gay Coast Guardsman

ALAMEDA, Calif.—A three-member Coast Guard board has recommended that Petty Officer Ricardo Huertas, 27, be given an honorable discharge because of what it called unsuitability to serve due to his admitted homosexuality. The board said it felt it could not go against established coast guard policy which forbids gay men from serving. However, it recommended that the Coast Guard review that policy.

The decision bars Huertas from re-enlistment but allows him to retain his veteran's benefits.

Huertas put his 11-year military career on the line in January when he admitted to his commanding officer that he is gay. While aboard the Coast Guard cutter, Rush, he informed his executive officer that he could no longer

## Coast Guard 3 Homosexual Classifications

Class I: Those cases in which the person in question has committed an act accompanied by assault or coercion; by an act to which the person involved does not willingly consent.

Class II: Those cases in which those serving on active duty engage in one or more homosexual acts with a consensual partner.

Class III: Those cases in which the person in question exhibits, professes or admits to homosexual tendencies but there is no evidence the member, while on active duty, engaged in homosexual acts.

perform his duties "because my feelings toward men were getting stronger, and I could no longer listen to their negative statements about homosexuals."

As soon as he revealed his sexual orientation, Huertas said, the officer "ordered Coast Guard intelligence to remove me off the ship and start an investigation. They treated me like a criminal, fingerprinted me and took pictures of me."

Coast Guard brass recommended that he be discharged as a "class 3 homosexual." According to Coast Guard records, the service discharged 72 people between 1985 and 1988 in cases involving homosexuality.

Huertas, the divorced father of a 5-year-old son, is on temporary duty at the Coast Guard's Pacific Area Command in Alameda. He said he wants to be instrumental in changing military policy regarding lesbians and gay men.

## Noted Black Lesbians to Marry in L.A. Ceremony

LOS ANGELES—Jewel Williams and Rue Tha's will join in holy matrimony September 2, 1989 at the First Unitarian Church in Los Angeles. The ceremonies, which are by invitation only, have been limited to 500 guests. A reception featuring a Roman theme will be held at the Catch One immediately following the exchange of vows.

Williams is the founder and owner of Los Angeles's Catch One Disco, the area's largest dance club with a black gay clientele.

"At first we wanted a quiet ceremony with a few friends," said the couple in a formal announcement to the press. "But we decided to make the statement to the entire gay community that it's okay to have a ceremony, to spend money on a wedding just like straights do. It validates you. We can make relationships last. We can make them work."

The couple will honeymoon in the South Pacific.

He said the case of Army Staff Sgt. Perry Watkins, who filed suit after he was discharged in 1984 after serving for 14 years, encouraged him to fight for his job.

Watkins, like Huertas, admitted that he had homosexual tendencies, although Watkins' revelation was made when he enlisted in 1967 at age 19. It was found that Watkins had engaged in gay sexual activity while in the service, and since the Army repeatedly allowed him to re-enlist over the years, a federal appeals court ordered him reinstated last year.

"Now, I want the chance to state my point of view," said Huertas, who noted that his shipmates have been supportive of his decision.

Huertas reportedly has a good performance record in the Coast Guard, and stresses that being gay has not hindered his job performance in the military. He previously served in successful stints in the Army, the Army ROTC and the Army National Guard.

Huertas said he wanted to complete his tour of duty and then attend medical school to work toward his long-time goal of being an Army doctor.

## Team LA Holds 1st Meet

LOS ANGELES—Team LA, a coalition of individuals and teams planning to participate in the Gay Games III and the accompanying Cultural Festival in Vancouver next year, held its inaugural meeting at Plummer Park in West Hollywood last month.

"We want to encourage everybody—black, Hispanic, Oriental, whatever—to be a part of this team," said spokesperson Jim Arnold.

The group was formed to coordinate uniforms for the opening and closing ceremonies, travel, advertising and publicity, and to serve as a clearinghouse for individuals from Southern California wishing to compete.

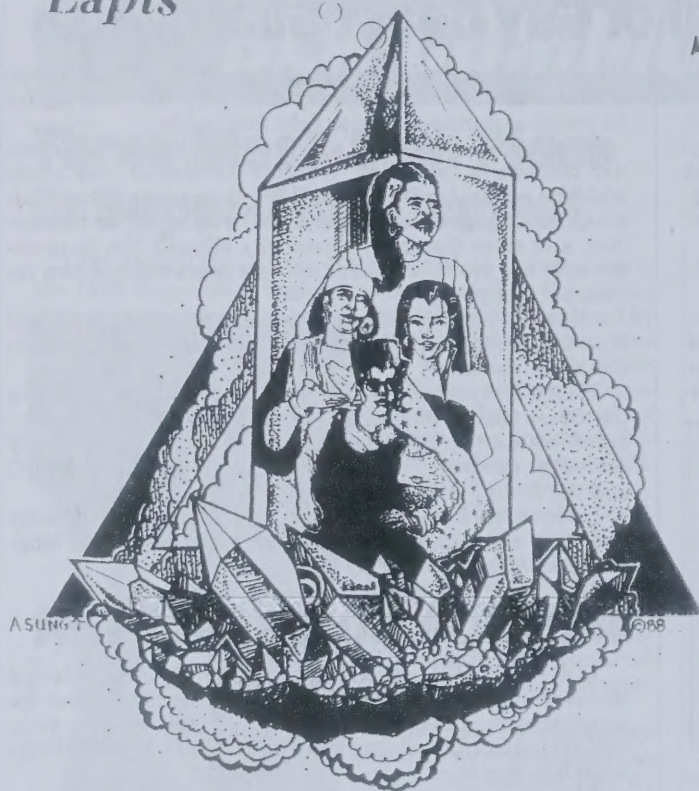
Team LA can be reached at 213-644-6055 or by writing Box 83544, Los Angeles, CA 90083.



"You mean to say that neither of you queens has ever changed a flat tire?"



*Lapis*



## *Support Group* *Black Lesbian*

Six Wednesday evenings September 27, October 4, 11, 25 and November 1, 8, 1989 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at 1147 S. Alvarado St. in Los Angeles.

Facilitator: Hasani Gough, MSW.

This support group has been created for women who prefer the company of women (lesbian, bisexual, gay etc.) and is designed to be a safe place to enjoy mutual support and share joys, sorrows, challenges and hopes. The series will be closed after the second session.

Cost is \$15.00 for the series. Pre-registration is required. No one will be turned away because of inability to pay. For more information call LAPIS program at (213) 381-7805 from noon to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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## Black Lesbians, Gays Organize in San Diego

SAN DIEGO—Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United (LAGADU) is one of a growing number of black groups surfacing across the country. Now fully co-sexual, the group was originally organized by African American lesbians, and only later was its focus extended to include black gay men as "brothers and equal partners."

Fundi, a professional entertainer, cultural historian and community activist who co-founded the original People of Color AIDS Survival Effort and also a member of the group, cites "the disproportionate rise in the numbers of AIDS cases within the pan-African community" as well as matters of institutional distress, "the reality of racism and its profound, continuous effects on our lives; the desire to recognize and dismantle the dynamics that keep us apart, e.g., classism, sexism, homophobia and separatist issues; reclaiming the broad and rich pan-African historical experience" as leading to the development of the organization. Another goal is "the formation of male and female caucuses, in which a setting that provides a deeper individual examination of social sexual dynamics can be fostered."

Specifically, LAGADU has the following agenda: providing a forum for raps, promoting cultural arts and social events, establishing a pan-African lesbian and gay archive, grassroots networking, developing public visibility and increasing membership.

Already the group has met with success. An openly gay panel member from LAGADU was welcomed at a conference on survival of African American males. Last month, the group sponsored the first black lesbian and gay contingent ever to appear in the San Diego Pride Parade. In addition, the group is scheduled to be hosted by the San Diego Urban League.

In addition to Fundi, members of the group include: M. Corinne Mackey, a journalist who has written extensively on AIDS and race; John Guinn, an AIDS information specialist; Phyllis Jackson, an outreach worker for Project Crash specializing in AIDS issues as they relate to intravenous drug abusers; Stan Berry, a Democratic Party activist who has quietly worked to form bridges between the gay African American and mainstream lesbian and gay communities through political access and empowerment; and Larry Lawrence, a professional dancer and choreographer who is forming a theater troupe tentatively called "5-A" or African American Artists Against AIDS.

LAGADU general meetings are held every other Sunday, with separate men's and women's caucuses meeting during the weeks between. While the group plans to sponsor forums involving other ethnic groups, as well as heterosexuals, the current support groups are for black lesbians and gay men only. Social events, however, are open to everyone.

For more information about LAGADU, contact Marti at 619-294-6515, Fundi at 619-262-9517, or John Guinn at 619-263-8196.

## Fund \$100K AIDS Show

SACRAMENTO—The California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, has awarded a \$100,000 grant to the California Museum of Science and Industry for an exhibit on AIDS and the immune system aimed heterosexuals with a special effort to reach the black and Hispanic communities.

## David Leeming to Write Authorized Baldwin Bio

NEW YORK—The authorized biography of black gay author James Baldwin will be written by David Leeming and published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. it was announced recently. Leeming is a professor of English and comparative literature at the University of Connecticut and was a close friend and former secretary to Baldwin.

Leeming worked for the celebrated writer in New York and Istanbul between 1963 and 1967 while he was completing his Ph.D. under Leon Edel at New York University. In 1977, Baldwin authorized him to be his biographer.

During the last ten years of Baldwin's life, Leeming interviewed him on a variety of subjects in preparation for the book. Just before his death, Baldwin asked Leeming to work with his brother, David Baldwin, on the collating of his papers. They are now compiling a comprehensive Baldwin archive that will serve as a major resource for the biography and will eventually be available to the public.

Baldwin died in France in 1987.



Gay South African anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli makes a point during an address to the members of Unity Fellowship Church, August 27, 1989. Nkoli was in Los Angeles on the second stop of a 13-city U.S. speaking tour.



## Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum



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## Pros Discuss 3rd World AIDS at Montreal Meet

MONTREAL (AP)—Prostitution and prejudice against gay people are hindering efforts to control the spread of AIDS in developing countries, a group of international health workers said last month. They spoke in Montreal, where the Fifth International Conference on AIDS opened with 12,000 delegates in attendance.

Prostitution has been a major factor in the "wildfire-like spread of AIDS through Central Africa," said Chandra Mouli, head of an AIDS education project in Zambia. "Because of high levels of unemployment...young women often have no practical alternatives to prostitution."

The World Health Organization has received reports of 23,000 cases of AIDS in Africa but many cases are not reported and the figure is believed to be closer to 100,000.

Poverty also has contributed to the large numbers of male prostitutes in Thailand, according to Natee Teerarojjanapongs, a Thai specialist. He said there have been few attempts to educate Thailand's gay men and test them for the presence of the virus of the deadly disease.

Norma Kaminsky, a Costa Rican community health worker, said that in Latin American countries most AIDS victims have been gay men and hemophiliacs. Central and South American countries have reported 11,000 AIDS cases to the World Health Organization.

Kaminsky said poor relations between police and Latin American gay communities have hampered the detection and prevention of AIDS. "Lack of trust in the authorities has been a major obstacle," she said. "Homosexuality has been repressed by the police, gay bars have been closed and gays have been pursued."

A government-sponsored television campaign in Chile to educate the public about AIDS encountered strong social opposition, said Alonso de la Carrera, a Santiago-based health worker. When the messages were broadcast in March following long delays, they were aimed exclusively at the heterosexual population and contained no concrete information on prevention of AIDS, he said.

De la Carrera also said anti-gay social sentiment may have been behind the recent bombing of an AIDS community health office in Mexico.

African governments are struggling to control the AIDS epidemic, the health workers from that continent said. "AIDS is just one of a long list of health problems faced by the [Zambian] Ministry of Health," said Mouli. "And health is just one of a long list of problems faced by the government."

A study in the Kagera region of northwestern Tanzania found 4,000 orphans were AIDS carriers, said Dr. F.J. Owenya, a Red Cross worker. He said that in addition to prostitution in the region, the common practice of sharing of unsterilized instruments such as razor blades and safety pins to pierce ears has contributed to the spread of AIDS.

## Seattle: Needles Okay

SEATTLE (AP)—Intravenous drug users have turned in up to 100 used hypodermic needles in one afternoon as part of a new private program to stem the spread of AIDS. But the need still exists for more services and medical study and better AIDS prevention information throughout the city, health officials told the Seattle City Council.

"The people can't stop using drugs," said Dr. Bud Nicola, director of the Seattle-King County Health Department. "The best solution [for AIDS prevention] is to use one needle per person and to stop sharing needles."



## Gwenn Craig Tapped for S.F. Police Commission

SAN FRANCISCO—Gwenn Craig, an African American lesbian and former assistant to Sheriff Michael Hennessey, has been appointed by Mayor Art Agnos to the San Francisco Police Commission. She replaces outgoing commissioner Gayle Orr-Smith whose seat on the board was vacant for several months.

"This is a pivotal period for the police department," the mayor said. "I wanted a new commissioner with both a strong law enforcement background and unwavering support for the civilian review process. Gwenn Craig meets that standard."

The appointment was not without controversy, however, as a number of Bay Area politicians had supported Pat Norman for the position. The longtime activist was backed by the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, among others.

Craig, 38, is a former grants director for the Vanguard Public Foundation of San Francisco. She is currently an administrator with the San Francisco Bar Association's Legalization Project. She is also a former president of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club.

## Black Lesbian Group Plans Major Conference

LOS ANGELES—The Regional Black Lesbian Conference Planning Committee has opened its meetings to new participants for its September gathering, but will then restrict voting privileges on the board of directors regarding various components in organizing the conference. Thereafter, according to a spokeswoman, "new participants are welcome to serve on committees or help out in whatever way they are willing."

The conference, which is slated for early 1991, will be open to all women regardless of race or sexual preference, but will be centered around black lesbian issues.

A statement released by the Planning Committee defines its objective: "to organize, plan and put on a conference that will create and renew bonding between black lesbians in California as well as eventually nationally; to empower and work towards the establishment of a support network between black lesbians both socially and professionally."

Meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. For more information contact, Victoria, Publicity Planning Committee chair, at 213-293-1754.

## Black Clerics Talk AIDS

NEW YORK (AP)—Ten of the city's leading black ministers preached about the growing threat of AIDS to minorities one recent weekend.

"AIDS is a community disaster, and we're putting it high on the church's agenda, trying to do what we can to stem the tide," said the Rev. Calvin O. Pressley, a member of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, an organizer of the weekend sermons.

Pressley and other organizers hope this weekend's effort will spread to nearly 600 black congregations by the fall.

As the AIDS epidemic has begun to claim an increasing number of blacks and Hispanics, some health authorities have criticized minority leaders for ignoring or failing to acknowledge the extent of the disease in their communities.

## Anti-Abortion Leaders Alienate Most Blacks

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Many blacks don't join the anti-abortion movement because of the political views of some of its proponents, a black pro-life activist said recently.

"Who are these pro-life people? They are the people who supported Ronald Reagan and Jesse Helms and whose heroes are Jerry Falwell," said Pat Funderburk, North Carolina director of Black Americans for Life, to about 100 participants at the annual convention of N.C. Right to Life. The group met last month at Greensboro's Southside Baptist Church.

For African Americans, many of whom she believes personally oppose abortion, identifying with a movement dominated by conservative white people requires too much compromise, she said.

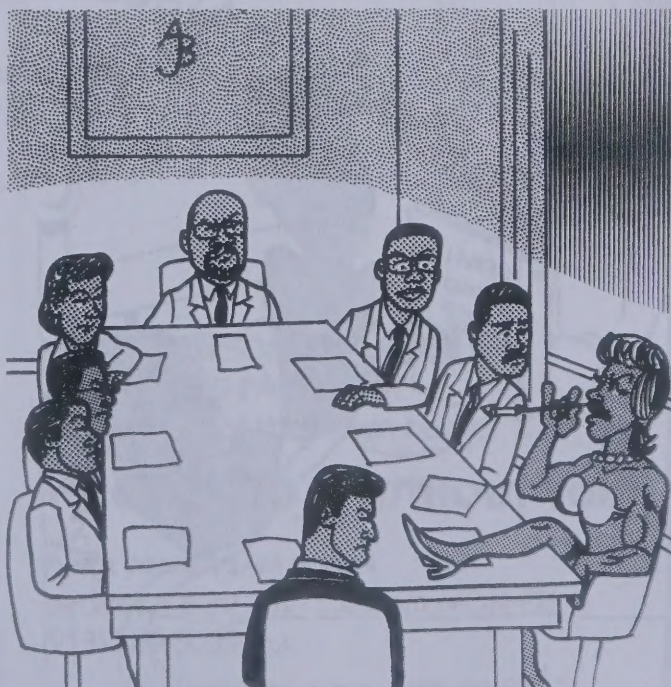
"When you're a black American who still feels the effects of racism and hatred, you really have a distorted perception," Funderburk said.

The national organization of Black Americans for Life, an anti-abortion group, was formed two years ago and has 7,000 to 10,000 on its mailing list, she said.

Many African Americans, she said, distrust motives of anti-abortion members: "What do they care about me and my children? They don't want to socialize with me, live by me, and God forbid, have one of my people marry one of theirs. There must be a hidden agenda there when they say they support my unborn baby."

Funderburk, 39, a Republican who lives in Raleigh, acknowledged that racial divisions weaken the anti-abortion movement. To combat this, she speaks to black and white audiences about becoming politically involved in the abortion debate.

"I don't try to win them over to the [anti-abortion] group," she said of African American audiences. "I try to win them over to the position."



*"I see it slightly differently."*



## APLA Hires Bicultural Health Ed Coordinator

LOS ANGELES—AIDS Project Los Angeles's (APLA) Education and Training Division has appointed Raquel Salinas to the position of Health Educator/Community Outreach coordinator.

Salinas is responsible for continuing to create AIDS education programs and coordinate APLA activities with other community-based agencies. She will also work closely with APLA's Speakers Bureau and AIDS in the Workplace programs while networking with existing Latino AIDS community-based organizations.

"We're very excited to have Raquel as a member of our education team," said Paul R. Kirchgraber, APLA's director of education and training. "We're hoping to open more doors to those AIDS service organizations that are already in the Latino community so that we can create even stronger educational programs."

For the past two years Salinas was a health educator/case manager for El Centro Human Services-Milagros AIDS Project where she counseled clients, provided health and AIDS prevention education to women with multiple risk behaviors, youth, church groups, and other community organizations.

"I have worked with a large number of undocumented people with AIDS with special needs who can no longer be ignored and need a strong network of support services," said Salinas. "My goal at APLA is to reach a greater number of individuals and groups in the Latino community, and provide information and education in order to prevent losing more lives to AIDS. In the past, this population has been inadequately served. The growing number of AIDS cases in the Latino community must be put to a stop. I'm here to help do that."

Salinas's educational and professional background includes a bachelor of arts degree in Bilingual Education from California State University, Northridge and numerous AIDS professional training credits.



"...clitoris, anus, cervix, menstrual...  
is that enough dirty talk for you?"

## Gentlemen Concerned Sponsors Garden Party

LOS ANGELES—Nearly 300 sharply dressed men and women who had each contributed \$50 or more to the fund-raising efforts of Gentlemen Concerned were hosted by the group at their fourth annual garden party and reception July 16, 1989. The event netted over \$21,000 for the Minority AIDS Project's Dignity House, a residential home for people with AIDS.

Through the efforts of the Gentlemen Concerned, an organization of black professional men, over the past four years more than \$70,000 has been contributed to the facility. This year's event was held at the Los Angeles Wilshire Ebell.

Roger V. Pamplin, Jr., a PWA, was presented with a plaque honoring his volunteer efforts on behalf of the Minority AIDS Project.

## County Funds Hospice in South Central L.A.

LOS ANGELES—The County Board of Supervisors has designated approximately \$158,000 per year for an AIDS hospice which is to be built in South Central Los Angeles.

The facility will be built by the AIDS Hospice Foundation [BLK, May 1989], which currently operates the Brownlie Hospice in Echo Park. It will be located in or near the King-Drew Medical Center near Compton. The amount earmarked will fund three "beds," that is, care for three terminally ill AIDS patients.

The Board also allocated \$271,000 for Serra House, located near Pico and Crenshaw Boulevards. Serra House is operated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, but accepts patients transferred from County USC Medical Center. Technically, it is not a hospice because PWAs do not have to be in the final stages of disease to live there.

But the County discontinued funding for Hughes House in West Hollywood and is inviting other agencies to bid for the \$400,000 now going to Padua House in Long Beach.

Both hospices have been operated by the troubled Hospice/Los Angeles-Long Beach non-profit agency whose expelled director, Ron Wolff, recently sought to exercise authority in Long Beach's predominantly black Minority AIDS Council. Hughes House has shut down, its county funding being redirected to Brownlie Hospice. Padua House's funding is up for grabs because of alleged improprieties dating back to Wolff's tenure.

## Slate Videos for Loan

SAN DIEGO—The San Diego AIDS Project has compiled a number of culturally sensitive videotapes focusing on HIV infection prevention and AIDS treatment from a black perspective, many which were produced by black filmmakers and health professionals.

The following tapes are available: *AIDS in the Black Community* (41 minutes), *Black People get AIDS Too* (23 minutes), *Till Death Do Us Part* (15 minutes), *Needle Talk* (27 minutes), *The Subject is AIDS* (17 minutes), *Before the Test* (12 minutes) and *What's Next—After the Test* (15 minutes).

The videos are kept in a lending library and may be checked out by health or education professionals, community agency workers and AIDS activists free of charge. For further information, contact Marty at 619-543-0549.



## Zambian Leader: Study for Solution Not Origin

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP)—President Kenneth Kaunda recently urged world nations to intensify efforts to combat AIDS and said researchers should spend less time apportioning blame for the origins of the disease that killed his 30-year-old son.

Time and resources were wasted in the fight against AIDS by "stupid questions" about whether the virus originated in Africa, Kaunda told reporters in Lusaka.

"AIDS has invaded the ranks of mankind right across the barriers of color, yet we are busy wasting time discussing such ideological questions as where it came from," he said.

The 65-year-old black statesman whose Southern African nation is severely afflicted with AIDS has publicly acknowledged the death of Masuzyo, one of his seven children, from AIDS in December 1986.

"I am not shy about the death of my son," he said.

Zambia has reported some 1,300 AIDS cases among its 7.5 million population to the World Health Organization but incidence of the disease is believed to be far higher. Up to 20 percent of the urban population is estimated to be infected with the AIDS virus.

Like other African nations, Zambia has no accurate procedures for reporting the incidence of AIDS or AIDS-related deaths, especially in remote areas. Actual confirmed cases have also been widely concealed in Africa for political reasons or because of the threat to tourism.

Many African nations have criticized Western researchers who said AIDS may have originated in a species of green monkey in central Africa.

## African Women Urged to Join Fight Against AIDS

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's deputy health minister urged African women to take a lead in fighting AIDS last month, saying that one way was to encourage men to use condoms. Swithun Mombeshora, a medical doctor, said African women should not hide behind their traditional beliefs that men made decisions for them.

Both men and women were responsible for the spread of AIDS, he told the opening of a three-day seminar focused on the killer disease. The workshop, attended by 90 women from 15 African countries, was jointly organized by the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa and the University of Zimbabwe. The society was founded last year to alert African women to the dangers of the disease.

"AIDS is a medical problem with a huge social and psychological effect on the family of the victim and the community at large," seminar coordinator Marvellous Mhloyi said before the opening. "It has social, economic and psychological effects on the infected person, the family and the community at large to the extent that everybody is affected directly or indirectly."

Dr. Mhloyi said the society's aims were not to divide the sexes but to unite them against AIDS.

Mombeshora, opening the workshop, emphasized the need for education to make people aware of the hazards of AIDS.

"Women and mothers can educate their children about sex and sexually transmitted diseases, and AIDS," he said. "As wives they can educate their spouses, and as members of the community they can be involved in the voluntary work of educating different groups."

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heard this time.

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The Black Gay Mens' Exchange will continue with its  
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For information on the location,  
call 213-753-2313 (Alton) or 213-221-6041 (Eddie).  
See ya soon my dear brothers.

## Nurse Sues Over Jab

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Four years after testing positive  
for exposure to AIDS, Victoria Ross, an African American  
nurse, has symptoms of AIDS-related complex.

Ross, 31, did not abuse drugs nor is she known to have  
engaged in any other behaviors likely to have exposed her to  
HIV. But she was accidentally jabbed with an HIV-infected  
needle by a student doctor during an emergency room  
procedure.

Ross is suing the doctor and Erie County Medical Center  
for \$10 million alleging negligence. Her husband is suing for  
another \$2.5 million, alleging that he is being denied love,  
companionship and the chance to have children with his  
wife. But nobody, it seems, is willing to take responsibility  
for the unfortunate accident.

"Everybody is pointing a finger at everybody else," said  
Andrew Feldman, an attorney for Dr. David Umfrey, who is  
named in the suit.

Feldman said Umfrey, who was a first-year resident at the  
time of the incident June 2, 1985, has been told he is not  
insured through the county hospital.

The county contends that Umfrey was not an employee so  
they are not liable. The state says it isn't liable because he  
was only a student at the state University of Buffalo Medical  
School and not a state employee. The federal government,  
which administers Buffalo Veterans Hospital where Um-  
frey's internship was based, says it is not responsible because  
the incident didn't occur there.

Feldman, who declined to discuss the merits of the case,  
did say, "He [Umfrey] is upset both over what happened [to  
Ross] and the question of whether he is personally liable...  
He wonders what will happen to his career."

The case is only the second of its kind filed in New York  
state by one health professional against another. The other  
case is pending in New York City.

Since 1981, 18 health care workers in the United States  
have contracted the AIDS virus through occupational risks,  
according to the National Centers for Disease Control in  
Atlanta, Georgia.

## MAP, APLA to Sponsor Public Benefits Seminar

LOS ANGELES—AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) and  
the Minority AIDS Project will co-sponsor a public benefits  
forum for people who have been affected by HIV, September  
16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at MAP, 5149 West Jefferson Blvd.,  
Los Angeles. Topics to be discussed include the social  
security system, state disability insurance, supplemental  
security income, food stamps, general relief and Medi-Cal.  
Admission is free.

"This public benefits seminar is the second APLA inter-  
community sponsorship with another community AIDS  
agency," said Brian Arndt, APLA's public benefits specialist.  
"Cultural sensitivity is paramount because it provides easier  
access into the public benefits system for minority communi-  
ties."

Following the program, participants will be available for  
one-on-one consultations. They include Brian Arndt, APLA;  
Betty McCain, MAP; Rebecca Chiao, National Center for Im-  
migrants' Rights; Steve Hanson, Employment Development  
Department; Ruben Garcia, Social Security Administration;  
John Fall, Legal Aid Foundation; Ed Sutherland, All Saints  
AIDS Service Center; and a representative from Milagros  
AIDS Project.

For reservations or to become a volunteer public benefits  
counselor, contact MAP at 213-936-4949.



# Cleo Manago New Head of East Bay AIDS Project



Cleo Manago

OAKLAND—Cleo Manago of Los Angeles has taken over as executive director of AIDS Project of the East Bay (APEB) replacing Larry Saxxon who left recently to do AIDS consulting. APEB has a client roster of over 600, one third of whom are women; a staff of 15 and a budget of over \$500,000.

"I'm excited about being appointed to a position where I can do more to help empower and advance the black and AIDS communities," said Manago, "and where I can implement a lot of the things that I think are important and necessary. In L.A. I sometimes ran into barriers trying to make things work."

Although Manago sees a "specific urgency to target the

black community because of the alarming rate of AIDS cases that are increasing and the lack of services coming from other agencies in this county," he is quick to point out that APEB is "not solely a black community agency." Indeed, he sees a "particular focus for the gay and women's community."

In Los Angeles, Manago worked with the Inner City AIDS Project, the Peoples Project for AIDS Education and Information and the Los Angeles Youth Network.

## Rue's House Gets \$4K

LOS ANGELES—With a menu that featured hot dogs and other picnic food, over 200 danced and laughed, had their fortunes told and their chakras aligned, submitted to painted tattoos and photos taken in a big yellow rocking chair, and were entertained by the music of a half dozen acts.

The occasion was a benefit that raised \$4,300 for Rue's House, a residence for women and children with AIDS and HIV diseases. Called Ivy Bottini's "34th Annual 29th Birthday" party, "Come play with Ivy at Pico Beach," the fundraiser was sponsored by Stonewall Democratic Club and the Catch One Disco August 20, 1989.

Proceeds from the event were earmarked for a children's playroom at the residence. Rue Thaïs, along with her partner Jewel Williams, created the home as their personal response to AIDS.

"We salute two wonderful and compassionate women, Rue Thaïs and Jewel Williams," said Bottini, "for their vision and courage in founding and running Rue's House, and I personally pledge to continue supporting this compassionate effort towards women with AIDS and HIV diseases and their children."

Among the acts appearing at the benefit were Rene Scott, Sharon Benson, Amy Brunell, Rod Mitchell, The Whitney Family, and Ivy Bottini herself in a comedy routine. Sha O'Dell read tarot cards, Chris Harrelle cleansed auras and aligned chakras, and Katrice Jackson contributed removable tattoos. Two attendees won \$150.00 in a 50/50 raffle.

## San Diego Gets 2 Black Gay HIV Support Groups

SAN DIEGO—Thanks to support from the Association of Black Psychologists, the San Diego Urban League and Stepping Stone, a recovery facility, there are now two support groups developed by and for San Diego's African American community relating to the issue of AIDS and HIV infection.

Psychologist Francita Johnson facilitates the group which meets at Stepping Stone, a residential treatment facility which primarily serves gay men and lesbians in the North Park/City Heights area.

AIDS and reproductive health educator John Guinn and psychologist intern Minola Clark co-facilitate another group at the San Diego Urban League offices on Market Street in Southeast San Diego.

Both of these groups are held on Sundays, are ongoing and are geared to the specific needs of black women and men with AIDS or who are HIV positive. Both welcome spouses, lovers, parents, children and other concerned family members.

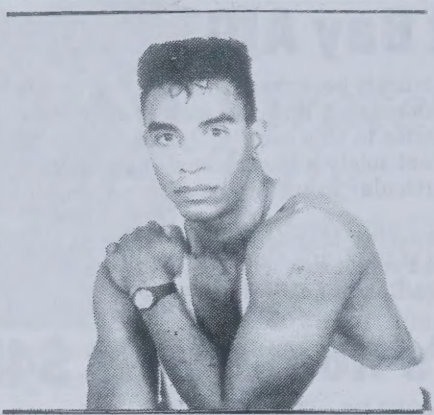
Johnson can be reached at 619-584-4010. Guinn can be reached at 619-263-8196.





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P a s t o r

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California 90016 ☐ (213) 936-4948

## CDC Errs on AIDS Cases

WASHINGTON (AP)—A system used by federal agencies significantly underestimates the number of Americans with AIDS and distorts the proportion of whites and minorities who have the disease, a University of Chicago study concludes.

In a study published in the journal *Science*, a survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago says estimates by the federal Centers for Disease Control do not accurately reflect racial distribution of AIDS, nor the true extent of the epidemic in the Midwest.

Edward O. Laumann of the University of Chicago said the distortion occurs because affluent whites can afford to be treated discreetly by physicians who do not officially report the disease. Also, he said, some data collection agencies are slow to compile reports and misfile others.

The CDC makes its estimate based on cases reported to official agencies. An undercount or a failure to report cases could seriously affect the CDC estimate, Laumann said in a recent interview.

"We are contending that there is an undercount, but we don't know the scale of it," said Laumann, who co-authored the report in *Science*. "We can estimate the demographic composition, but not the gross numbers themselves. The reason we're being cautious is that this is too small a sample."

To gather data for the study, Laumann and his associates conducted interviews with members of 1,481 households around the country. The households were selected to reflect a cross-section of the population.

Respondents were asked if they knew an acquaintance who had AIDS. To validate the accuracy of the answers, the respondents also were asked if they had an acquaintance who had been murdered.

Using earlier studies on the number of people likely to have known a murder victim, the researchers concluded that answers to the homicide question were statistically accurate. This suggested that answers to the AIDS question would be equally accurate.

The answers to the AIDS question "suggest that the white proportion [of AIDS cases] is substantially higher than CDC reports and that a substantially greater share of the cases is in the Midwestern region."

According to CDC figures from March 7, whites account for about 60 percent of the nation's AIDS cases. The University of Chicago study put the number at 72 percent.

The CDC said 26 percent of all victims so far are black and 14 percent are Hispanic. The Chicago results put these totals at 18 percent for blacks and 6 percent for Hispanics.

Through April, the CDC reported that AIDS had been diagnosed in 94,280 Americans, of whom more than half, or 53,544, had died.

## See Possible AIDS, TB Links; CDC Wants Tests

ATLANTA (AP)—The national Centers for Disease Control, responding to an increasing link between AIDS and tuberculosis, urged doctors Thursday to give TB tests to patients infected with AIDS virus and to make AIDS testing available to TB patients.

The CDC noted that infection with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, is "an important risk factor" for tuberculosis, and warned that "the further spread of HIV infection" among groups with a high incidence of tuberculosis "may result in dramatic increases in TB."



## Black Mayor Apologizes for 'Monkey Blood' Slur

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill.—The mayor has apologized for saying he feared a transfusion of "monkey blood" during a planned trip to Zaire, but said the flap has given him "international status."

Mayor Carl E. Officer, who is black, said on May 3 that he would bring his own supply of blood in case he needs a transfusion. He said he feared receiving contaminated "monkey blood" from Africans.

Officer called his remarks "unfortunate and uncalled for" and said "I have grievously erred." He said he has received numerous complaints about his remarks from Zairians living in this country "and from persons in all walks of life who are of African ancestry."

The mayor issued a formal, written apology "to all African people and to all natives of the United States of African descent" and said "I am truly sorry for offending persons for whom I hold so much love and respect," the statement said.

Glenwood Roane, executive director of the Zaire-American Research Institute, which is a sponsor of the trip, called Officer's remarks "ignorant" and said the mayor "should consider himself uninvited."

## Panel Scolds Defense Dept. on Lesbian Issue

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A military committee on women's issues has recommended that the Department of Defense (DOD) train officers in handling accusations of homosexuality directed against women in the armed services.

"The problem of lesbian-baiting of all strong and forceful women and those who reject the sexual advances of men clearly stems from the irrational DOD policy excluding lesbians from military service," said Sue Hyde of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Although the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services stopped short of recommending that the military end discrimination against lesbians, as NGLTF urged in testimony, the committee did agree that lesbian-baiting should be handled in accordance with guidelines to be developed. A disproportionately high number of women in the U.S. military are African American.

## WHO Says African AIDS Statistics Not Accurate

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—A U.N. official proposed African countries make confidential reports on the spread of AIDS in their countries to encourage more accurate information on the disease, a news report said Saturday.

Lobe Monekosso, the U.N. World Health Organization's director for Africa, said current reporting on the spread of AIDS in Africa is "haphazard, irregular and underestimated," the Standard newspaper said.

"Most African countries do not want to be associated with AIDS or are shy about divulging the real numbers of cases," Monekosso said. "I propose we adopt semi-confidential reporting."

Monekosso said the number of people in Africa infected with acquired immune deficiency syndrome could be as high as one million. Last month, WHO reported 10,918 cases of AIDS in Africa.

## Brown Campus Sprouts Anti-Black, Gay Graffiti

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Recent incidents of anti-black and anti-homosexual graffiti on Brown's campus have led the school's new president to vow that he will expel and prosecute those responsible.

The president, Vartan Gregorian, met Saturday with the residents of the West Andrew Hall and told them he would like to "apologize to our students and our community for the dastardly act of those who would poison our university."

Students found a computer-printed flier Thursday that made a misspelled demand to "keep white supremacy alive," and urged students to join the "Brown chapter of the KKK." West Andrew houses about 50 students, about a fourth of whom are black, Asian or Hispanic. Nadgia James, who is black, said she found a scribbled note on her door reading, "This room is for coloreds only." Slogans directed against homosexuals were scrawled on an elevator panel two weeks ago, students said.

Dr. Gregorian, who was inaugurated last month, said he has asked the assistance of the Providence police in finding the culprits. "I issue a solemn warning that it is the policy of my administration to take action against those who incite hatred or perpetrate acts of vandalism in our community," he said in a statement.

## AmFAR Gives \$70K to Minority AIDS Project

NEW YORK—The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) announced today the award of a \$70,000 grant, including funds for project development, to an innovative AIDS education program targeted at minority youth in Los Angeles. Teen counselors will teach other teenagers how to prevent the spread of AIDS in this program, conducted by the Minority AIDS Project.



*"I'll go get the dressing while you and James toss the salad."*





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### September

### October

**1st Tuesday**

**5th at 7:30 p.m.**  
Minority AIDS Project

**3rd at 7:30 p.m.**  
Minority AIDS Project

**2nd Monday**

**11th at 7:00 p.m.**  
LA Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center

**9th at 7:00 p.m.**  
LA Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center

**3rd Thursday**

**21st at 8: p.m.**  
Catch One Disco - Roots Room

**19th at 8:00 p.m.**  
Catch One Disco - Roots Room

**Information:**

**BWMT/LA: 213/666-5493**

**Locations:**

Catch One Disco  
4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles

Minority AIDS Project  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles

Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center - Rm. 203  
1213 N. Highland Ave., L.A.



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

Richard Gere was spotted at L.A.'s Catch One Disco recently. But he was there along with Director **Garry Marshall** and a hundred other folks filming *Three Thousand* for Touchstone Pictures, a Disney company, for release next year. One wonders what old **Walt**, who was—how shall we put it?—"considerably conservative," would think about one



Mahogany

of his company's pictures being shot not only in a gay bar, but in a *black* gay bar. Since owner **Jewel Williams** allowed the club to be closed to the public for two full days to accommodate the crew, we can assume that the execs at the Mickey Mouse company must have made it worth her while. The picture, which also stars **Ralph Bellamy**, reportedly has no gay theme...And speaking of Jewel, her wedding to **Rue Thais** takes place September 2 at the First Unitarian Church in Los Angeles. Prior to the nuptials, she is throwing a bachelorette party for a small group of close friends. Rue is having a bridal shower...The wedding might have taken place at **Rev. Carl Bean's Unity Fellowship Church** except for two reasons: guests would overflow out onto Jefferson, and Jewel has parted company with Carl, resigning both from the board of the church and the **Minority AIDS Project**. Most of Jewel's AIDS charity work is expected to go to Rue's House, the residence for women and children with AIDS that bears her

fiancée's name...Apparently *Voyager II* has led to all sorts of **Galaxy** activity in Boston. **Stephen's** impression of **Sylvester** brought the house down at the bar's Second Annual Rhode Island Project AIDS Benefit...What Anglo head of a major BWMT chapter is in the habit of welcoming most out-of-town black gay activists a la Eskimo with an invitation to share his bed? No, Evilene, it isn't true that all of them do!...Boston drag queen, excuse us, *female impersonator*, **Malinda Wilson** can be seen in her hometown bars, **Jacques** or **The Hay**...Black music writer **Nelson George** says that current dance music is moving "toward a unification of black and gay audiences not seen since early disco"... Action at the new location of the **Brass Rail** in the nation's capitol is too live. The bar opens into a greasy spoon where two ample, white *hausfrau* serve grits and pop with southern drawl when they're not sitting in the bar watching blacks banter. When the queens aren't doing deep dish on one another, they're doing the Electric Boogie, a revisionist

Hustle with twice as many steps, only pale versions of which can yet be seen in West Coast clubs... Meanwhile, in Koch Kountry, **Keller's** has become Manhattan's all black bar and the **Two Potato** is the new interracial-but-mostly-black dance bar which brings 'em out and packs 'em in...Also in New York, luscious **Lidell Jackson** (of the **Lavender Light** singers and Broadway's original *Chorus Line*) has reluctantly returned to the meat rack, he and his ex, **Mitchell Karp** of MACT having called it quits after nine years. Rumor is that BWMTers all over the nation are more upset about it than the divorcees themselves so they're planning a "closure party" to reassure all that the split is amicable (uh-huh). Move in fast, girls, 'cuz there ain't no finer catch on the planet than Lidell, whose politics and personality are the only things better than his peccs. Plus, Lidell got custody of the Upper Westside co-op...Boston's **Buddies** got black with **Ellie Boswell** and **Paul Everett**...Last month's "Conference on HIV Infection and AIDS Among Racial and Ethnic Populations" held in D.C. generated the usual heat without light. There were demands, walk-outs, protests caucuses and takeovers, as each minority group yammered about being oppressed by the others. There were more hets than gays, almost as many Anglos as Amerafricans (**David Johnson**, L.A.'s white AIDS liaison appointed by its black mayor was aloof, but at least he was there. It was surprising how many white-run, well-funded AIDS agencies which claim to be doing minority outreach sent no one—or at least no one black). If you were into grand opera, divas, prima donnas, castrati and coloratura queens abounded. As usual, the most obnoxiously egotistical were the ones calling everybody else divas behind their backs! A feud erupted between L.A.'s **Phill Wilson** and Oakland's **Larry Saxxon**, but like most volcanos it spewed forth more smoke than fire, and everybody denies knowing what provoked Vesuvius to explode. Equally puzzling was the sudden firing of **National Minority AIDS Council** executive director **Don Edwards** by NMAC's board, which divided the conference's attendees into pro-Edwards and pro-NMAC factions. Edwards, a black het, was replaced as acting director by **Paul Kuwata**, a gay Asian who was himself ousted from the headpost of the **National AIDS Network** not that long ago. History do repeat...**Caper Room** owner **Joe Beasley** was spotted at **The Study** in Hollywood flashing his movie star good looks...Although the Spokespersons of Ceremony (just what *is* the politically correct term for Master of Ceremony?) at the 12th annual **Super-Men Pageant** dutifully reported the official contestant statistics including height, weight, chest size, hair and eye color, age and birthplace, they omitted one unofficial statistic that was very prominently apparent in the case of **Carlis Sharpe**. The measurement, however, was quickly estimated by all at the Hollywood Palladium where the event was held last month when the muscular San Franciscan stepped onto the stage wearing a very brief, but full, thin red swimsuit. Sharpe didn't win the Super-Man title—he came in fourth out of 39—but appeared to have been capable of taking the top prize in another department...Cutie pie **Tony**, a co-worker with Super-Men producer **David Hodgson**, was stunning in a tight-fitting Spanish-influenced beige outfit complete with hat. **Horizon** mainstay **Mahogany**, who did a fab **Diana Ross** as part of the opening entertainment, was seen later in a leopard print...Our spies tell us that other notables were in the Super-Men audience, but to go easy with names lest there be an outcry. Apparently columns such as this can appear in white gay papers, in straight papers (both black and white), in Jewish papers—everywhere but BLK. And I thought we black gay men and lesbians were pretty much the same as everyone else—except for the gender we choose to share our beds. Girlfriend, sometimes we treat ourselves far too seriously and see bogeymen when there are none...See you next month!



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213.667.3262 Office hours: Mon-Fri NOON-7 PM Sat NOON-4 PM



# BLK LIST

If you want your organization Blk Listed, drop a note to Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the October issue is September 15, 1989. The Blk List is designed for events that occur on a regular schedule.

- \*Somewhat black
- \*\*Significantly black
- \*\*\*Mostly black
- \*\*\*\*All black
- †Mixed gay and straight

## EASTERN UNITED STATES

### BARS AND BATHS

- Allegro II\*\***, 2056 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215-577-9318.
- Andre's\***, 2321 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10027.
- Apartment\***, 343 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38103, 901-525-9491.
- Bachelor's Mill\*\*\***, 500 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003.
- Blues\***, 264 W. 43rd St., New York 10036, 212-221-9152.
- Brass Rail\***, 811 - 13th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202-628-6496.
- Buddy's\***, 751 Washington Ave., Newark, NJ 07109, 201-751-0527.
- Club Gemini\***, 443 E. Stone Ave., Greenville, SC 29601, 803-235-8175.
- Clubhouse\*\***, 1296 Upshur St., N.W., Washington, DC 20011, 202-882-7616.
- Family Affair\***, 875 Vance Ave., Memphis, TN 38126, 901-527-0672.
- First Choice\***, 533 Ferry St., Newark, NJ 07105, 201-465-1944.
- Kellers\*\*\***, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014, 212-243-1907.
- Mt. Morris Baths\*\*\***, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035, 212-534-9004. Bathroom.
- Nob Hill\***, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington, DC 20010, 202-797-1101.
- Rascals\***, 611 Hick St., Asbury Park, NJ 07712.
- Smart Place\***, 922 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-627-8984.
- West Ninth Club Baths\***, 1293 W. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44113, 216-696-0595. Bathroom.

### ORGANIZATIONS

- ADODI/Philadelphia**, Box 19132, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
- Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.
- BEBASHI**, 1528 Walnut St. #1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215-546-4140.
- Gay Men of African Descent**, Box 2519, New York, NY 10185-0021, 718-260-9541.
- National Minority AIDS Council**, 714 G St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-1076.
- Salsa Soul Sisters**, Box 1119, New York, NY 10009, 212-384-2668.
- Zami**, Box 7289, Sta. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X9, Canada.

## CENTRAL UNITED STATES

### BARS AND BATHS

- Armory\***, 836 Juniper, Atlanta, GA 30309, 404-881-9280.
- Bill's Disco and Show Bar\***, 200 W. Amite, Jackson, MS 39201, 601-969-9765.
- Club Chicago\***, 609 N. La Salle St., Chicago, IL 60610.
- Club La Ray\*\*\***, 3150 N. Halstead St., Chicago, IL 60657, 312-525-3150. Sundays and Tuesdays 11 p.m. Amateur talent show.
- The Cove\***, 586 Worcester, Atlanta, GA, 404-875-2477.
- Deep Purple\***, 1305 First Ave., Columbus, GA 31901.
- 411 Club\*\*\*†**, 411 E. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-684-9387.
- Days straight, nights gay.
- Foster's Lounge\***, 980 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309.
- Gina's\***, 219 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

- Golden Lantern\*\***, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70116.
- Jeffrey Pub\*\*\***, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, 312-363-8555.
- Le Bistro\***, 800 Bourbon St., New Orleans, LA 70116.
- Loretta's\***, 708 Spring St., Atlanta, GA, 404-874-8125.
- Martin's Den\*\*\***, 5550 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60621, 312-363-9470.
- Mint\***, 422 W. State St., Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-273-7660.
- Molly & Oscar's\***, 405 Tower Ave., Superior, WI 54836.
- Nites II\***, 212 N. Vandeventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-3123.
- Pear Garden\***, 111 Luckie St., Atlanta, GA, 404-659-4055.
- Rialto\*\*\***, 14 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60604, 312-427-9893.
- Studio 13\*\*\***, 1318 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77006, 713-521-9030.
- Swingtime\***, 2820 Cumming, Omaha, NE 68131.
- Tina's RT1\***, 1843 N. 20th, Milwaukee, WI 53205, 414-933-7577.
- Willie's Lounge\***, 8105 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, IL 60619.
- Zebra\***, 887 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309.

### ORGANIZATIONS

- Ebony Connection**, 227 Congress St. #125, Austin, TX 78767, 512-478-DRUM.
- IRUWA**, Box 19146, Minneapolis, MN 55419.
- National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219, 313-537-0484.

## WESTERN UNITED STATES

### BARS AND BATHS

- Annex\*\***, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.
- Basgo's\***, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.
- Bella Napoli\*\*\***, 2280 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612, 415-893-5552.
- Bench & Bar\***, 120 - 11th St., Oakland, CA 94607, 415-444-2266.
- Blue and Gold\*\***, 136 Turk St., San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-928-9651.



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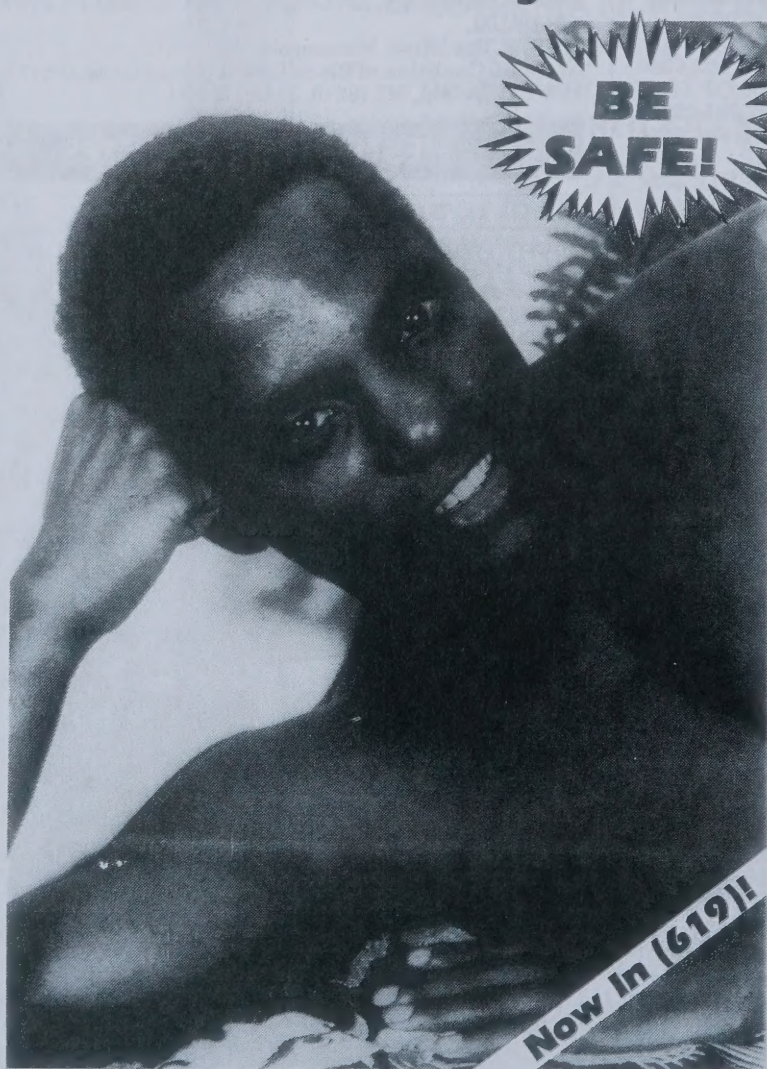


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**Caper Room\*\*\***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403. Mondays 10 p.m. Sir Marshall; Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male exotic dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Thursdays 9:30 p.m. Caper Connection show; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.

**Catch One\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night.

**Cottage\*\*\*†**, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.

**Cover Girl Club\*\*\*†**, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595. Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)

**Eagle\***, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252.

**Eagle Creek Saloon\*\***, 1884 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94104, 415-863-3323.

**Foster's Club Penthouse\*\***, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd. #3, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-837-5881.

**Griff's\***, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889. Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.

**Horizon\*\*\***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678. Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Sundays and Wednesdays 10 p.m. The LaVerne Show; Tuesdays Wellfare Night; Thursdays Male exotic dancers.

**Jewel's Room\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Thursday 10 p.m. Lip sync; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.

**Midtowne Spa\*\***, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Bathhouse. Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price admission.

**Peacock Alley\*\***, 1271 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, 619-295-5696.

**Pendulum\*\***, 4146 - 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-863-4441.

**Rage\***, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7055. Tuesdays Gong Show, and 10 p.m.-2 a.m. London Life; 3rd Wednesday Fashion Show.

**Steamworks\***, 2107 - 4th St., Berkeley, CA 94710, 415-845-8992. Bathhouse.

**Study\*\***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-

9551. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour.

**Taste\***, 2217 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205, 303-296-1741.

## RESTAURANTS

**Carriage Trade\***, 8225 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, 213-655-6425.

**Casita del Campo\***, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-662-4255.

**Crest\***, 3725 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-660-3645.

**Images\***, 3938 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-665-7390.

## ORGANIZATIONS

**Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group**, 168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Saturdays 5 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 6 p.m.

**Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project**, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563, 213-206-5162. Free HIV testing, counseling, referrals, research studies and volunteer activities.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-666-5495. Saturdays 10 a.m. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Exchange**, 213-753-2313 or 213-221-6041.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-274-3398. 1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles**, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716. Saturdays 7:15 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 2nd Sunday 4 p.m. HIV+ Support pot luck dinner (location varies); 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering committee meeting (location varies).

**Black and White Men Together/National Association**, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.

**Black and White Men Together/San Francisco**, 2269 Market St. #199, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice**, Box 341412, Los Angeles, CA 90034, 213-664-0234.

**Gentlemen Concerned**, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

**Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women**, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805. Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color; Wednesdays Women of color support group.

**Makeda**, 1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105. Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays 5 p.m. Women's rap group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" black women support group.

**Minority AIDS Project**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking support group; Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Aerobic class; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS support group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 7 p.m. Life Beyond Bars; Thursdays 7 p.m. American Sign Language class; Fridays 1 p.m. Family members of AIDS patients support group.

**Regional Black Lesbians Conference Planning Committee**, 213-293-1754. Sundays 2:30-4:30 p.m. Black lesbians only (Held at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd.).

**Unity Fellowship Church**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:30 a.m. Worship service; Thursdays 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal.

**Watts Health Foundation**, 4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B, Compton, CA 90221, 213-639-3068. Thursdays 7 p.m. Positive approach to wellness support group for PWAs or HIV+ (Held at Watts Health Medical Holistic Center, 7514 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044).

**Womyn of Colors**, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205. Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Z and Z Productions**, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.



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Win lotto guaranteed! Numerologist picks winning numbers scientifically. You win or get money back. 305-976-0003, toll plus \$2 minute. (12)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

BLK needs a well-organized, detail-oriented person to keep track of every black gay bar and black organization in the entire world. If this sounds interesting, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call us. 213-410-0808. BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (10)

Executive Assistant. To serve as staff support and office manager for large volunteer community-based organization. Office management experience and pleasant phone manner. Experience on IBM-compatibles preferred. Must be able to deal well under pressure! Send resume to: Search Committee, Box 461236, West Hollywood, CA 90046. (10)

Interviewers. Black C.A.R.E. (Community AIDS Research and Education) Project is looking to hire several men and women to conduct interviews with black gay and bisexual men. Other positions include persons certified to draw blood and an HIV counselor. All part-time with flexible schedules. Also full-time administrative assistant. Must have grant management, university and accounting experience. Dr. Vickie Mays, UCLA. 213-206-5159. (11)

Nursing Clinical Coordinator/AIDS Hospice. Excellent salary and benefits for an experienced RN. LVN positions also available. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, L.A. 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (10)

Palm Springs Houseman. Older white

man wants versatile houseman. Cook, gardener, driver, masseur, handyman. Live-in plus salary. Need references. Jack, Box 322, Suite 109, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046 (12)

Writer/researcher to help with the BLK column, "Word Up." Must be creative, interested in seeking out the unusual and willing to put your nose in where it doesn't belong. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (10)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Step, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

## COMPUTER STUFF

"An Uncommon Call." 213-465-3114. Public access BBS. 8N1. 300-2400 baud. 24 hour. Celebrating life/grass-roots, gospel, dependency/recovery. (14)

## WANTED

Black Lace, the first erotic magazine ever produced by and for African American lesbians, welcomes submissions of poetry, short stories, essays (political essays most welcome), and hot fantasy letters reflecting your erotic interests/experiences. All materials considered. Expect Black Lace to be raunchy, hot and tastefully done! Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced. None will be returned unless accompanied with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Unless otherwise indicated, all fantasy letters accepted for publication will be printed anonymously. Submissions should be addressed to Alycee Lane, Editor, Black Lace, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also accepted. Send with SASE to Revon Kyle Banneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Lease/buy option: Luxurious mid-Wilshire studio condo, furnished, mini-blinds, breakfast bar, AC, w/w carpet, patrolled garage. Available 9/15/89. \$500 month. Call Chuck 213-480-0380. (10)

Literate, GWM, ex-New Yorker, thirty-something, seeks roommate, any race, to share two-bedroom, grand piano-equipped Echo Park home. Not looking

for a sex partner or even a "best friend," but an occasional intelligent conversation would be nice, as would an interest in keeping the house and yard in good order with being prodded. HIV status unimportant, but references are. Security and rent negotiable. Ted 213-250-1365. (10)

GWM to share 2 bedroom, 1 bath house in Hacienda Heights with GBM straight-acting. No drug or alcohol. Employed person. \$280 month including utilities and kitchen privileges. Quiet area. Call George 818-369-6350. (10)

## FOR SALE

Miles of music: 25+ years of soul. Locate tunes you choose. 213-937-3190. (10)

AIDS is biological warfare. Call 213-977-0901. (14)

Hot Black Men—The East Coast's best black men are in photographs by Weems-Works, now available in erotic photosets or art prints. For sample and brochure, mail request stating age (over 21) and \$10 to David Weems, c/o Weems-Works, Box 22886, Baltimore, MD 21203. (TF)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

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Australian Rick, blond, blue, 6'2", 195 lbs., 40, offers hot massage, hot spa, warm conversation. Only \$40 in. 213-259-8485. (11)

Every inch is brought alive and relaxed. \$50 and travel if outside Hollywood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (10)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

WM, 45, seeks dominant BM for good times. Doug. 604-263-3991 (Vancouver). (10)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

GWM ISO GBM 4 hot sex. 609-989-1260. (12)

Attractive, young BM, seeks lover. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (12)

GBM, 30, seeks Hispanic/Latin male for friendship-lover. Write to Box 684083,

Corona-A, NY 11368. (10)

Personable, GWM, 33, 5'5", 125 lbs., trim beard, blue eyes, would like to hear from versatile in-shape GBM under 45. Blk Mailbox #9. (11)

GWM, 55, slim, active life, gym-oriented, horseback riding, home life and more. Enjoy most sex. Seeking a younger dominant black man with similar tastes. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (11)

## PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

GWM, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., seeks GBM for friendship, correspondence and safe sex. Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (10)

GWM wants relationship. Dennis Pitman #882430, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (11)

Slim WM. 517-484-6505, Box 4222, E. Lansing, MI 48826. (10)

GWM, professional; 37, 6'2", 180 lbs. would like to meet/correspond with men of diverse cultural backgrounds. Romance, with affection, are important aspects that I would like to share. Write Rod, Box 8257, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. (10)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

## PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

Asiatco callado y serio (52, 5'5", 110 lbs.) busca amigo delgado y duradero. Platinar y acariciar solamente. Chang, Box 76475, LA 90076. (12)

Handsome, muscular black man would like to meet imaginative men of all races for fun, fantasy and friendship. I am 32, 5'10", 170#, honest, with a sense of humor and imagination. Photo and phon to: M.D., Box 57192, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413. (12)

Commitment: Black male, 38, G/P seeks sincere Gr/A man, 40-55, with old-fashioned values. Like 1-to-1, homelife and nature. Any race. Mel 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (answering service) (15)

Husband's cute white ass for black dominant top. Him/us? Box 12432, El Cajon, CA 92022. (10)

Young, white/black male, little brother, under 24, wanted by hot black male, 31 yrs. I am 6'0", 180 lbs. with hot body, nice personality, lots of fun. Please send picture. Don't call. BLK Mailbox #11. (10)

Tall blond hunk, seeks boyish-looking



top. Don 213-281-6138. (12)

Slim, muscular BM seeks slim Asian or Hispanic bottom for friendship and sessions of safe sex. Write #149, 1283 S. La Brea, L.A. 90019. (10)

BM, BC wanted by sexy, slim, select, spectacular male. We service, savour blk cock. Photo, phone, letter. Box 12432, El Cajon, CA 92022. (12)

Free massage for fit smooth BM with big buns and small tight waist by WM, 36, professional, 173 lbs., safe, salt and pepper hair, blue eyes, moustache, BB swimmer. Mike 213-483-1517. (12)

Couple looking top GBM safe sex. 4370 W. Third St., Los Angeles 90020. (12)

Average BM, 40 years, 5'11", 145 lbs., beard, moustache, eclectic tastes, metaphysical, spiritual, wine, smoke, creative, artistic, ambitious, romantic, traveled, visionary, seeks WM with similar interests. K.S., 103A69, L.A. 90069. (11)

Attractive Italian wants top, endowed BM. Tom Box 40416, San Diego, CA 92104. (12)

Discreet professional black male needs to satisfy fantasy. Is into big, muscular, athletic, heavyset, bodybuilder type black males with super, super big thighs and buns, who enjoy showing off their bodies to a body worshiper. No sexual activity involved. 213-933-3098. (11)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (10)

GWM, 46, seeks GBM over 35, bored with working out, bars, dancing, but interested in talks, walks, travel, offbeat restaurants, classical/folk music, sports, for friendship, possible relationship. Write DN, Box 291993, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (12)

Good-looking blond wants tall healthy GBM with big cock who likes to lie back and be serviced all night. Call Alex 818-896-8890. M-F at noon. (10)

Hot, handsome, in-shape GWM, 47, 5'10", 160 lbs., seeks handsome GBM for friendship and much more. Call James. 714-336-1305. (10)

Looking for very muscular GBM for good times/possible relationship. Am 36, 6'2", 150 lbs. blonde, blue eyes, own home in Long Beach. Call John 213-426-2870. (11)

Are you interested in the inside of a man as well as his outward appearance? If so, check me out. I am an attractive GBM, 46 (but look younger), 6', 165 lbs., who is warm, affectionate and understanding. I believe in safe sex (i/o). If you consider yourself an attractive, mature (under 30 is OK, but no "kids"), sincere person who enjoys freely giving affection and validation, call me and

let's talk further. James-Louis 213-469-2711, ext. 401. If not in, please leave with switchboard your name, phone number and the best time to call you back. Make operator read back your message. Thanks. (10)

BM, 28, 6'7", versatile, attractive, romantic, seeks man 30+. Nationality not important. Photo is. Gregg. Blk Mailbox #10. (10)

BM seeks BM 9" or more that enjoys being bottom. D.P., Box 84174, Los Angeles, CA 90073. (10)

Nice-looking GBM, Sag, needs a masculine Leo, Libra, Aquarius top, 33 to 43 years, 5'9" up, to share life with. No drugs, Beard a+. Call B-4 11 p.m. 213-755-8848. Coty. (10)

Hot New York Rican seeking butch Latinos and mix blacks with thick bichos. Willie. 213-657-2539. (12)

Are you ready for the real thing? Muscular, lean, goodlooking, GWM, 35 wants a muscular, goodlooking, intelligent GBM who enjoys the comfort and excitement real intimacy brings. It happens over time, but it starts now! Bill 415-431-2656. (10)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (11)

Black man wanted by slim, young, attractive GWM. 415-923-0278. (11)

GM, half-Japanese/half-white, seeks sincere GBM for friendship. 213-396-5161. (11)

Lincoln, Elton D.: Where are you? I'm worried. Call me. Get my # from 411, West Hollywood. lggy. (11)

Muscular short, good-looking blond, hazel, excellent body/mind. Look 36, very affectionate, versatile, moderately hairy, hot bottom, educated, spiritual, non-smoker. Seeks attractive thin-to-athletic GBM top. Letters with photos get early response. Jim, 11288 Ventura Blvd. #327, North Hollywood, CA 91604. (10)

Are you looking for a handsome, smooth-skinned Italian who knows how to take it? I'm 32, 5'8", 140 lbs. and want hot times at my place. 213-656-9015. (10)

Occasional head available by French-active, educated workaholic, basically straight but enjoys accommodating professionals (F/M/Cpls/TS's) who love receiving erogenous/therapeutic oral service. Reciprocation unnecessary! Hung under (5") welcum! No smoke/drugs! Home/phone necessary: 619-265-2102. (10)

Masculine, black, very attractive, discreet, educated, athletic male, 5'11", 185 lbs., 39, seeking masculine, romantic, dominating, safe sex, mature, black male for one-to-one. Jay 714-786-3258. Irvine, CA. (10)

Sexy GWM top seeks cute GBM bottom for safe, serious relationship. My interests include romance, cooking, theater, jazz, spirituality. 213-876-5871. (10)

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Black man wanted by slim, young, attractive GWM. 415-923-0278. (10)

Commitment: B/M G/P seeks a sincere G/A man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1 and nature. M.T., Box 712071, Los Angeles 90071. (11)

Very attractive GBM, 22, 6'0", 170 lbs., relationship material, new to area, seeks under 33, good-looking GM, any race, drug free, safe sex, educated. BLK Mailbox #6. (10)

Tight body and hot, white butt wants black dudes with a least 9x6 who know how to work ass. 213-656-5371. (10)

Write attractive GWM: Boke, 2110 Ninth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. (10)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, California 90004. (11)

Attractive black ex-dancer, affectionate, 6', 190 lbs., middle-aged, professional, financially independent, into the arts, safe sex and athletic types, looking for similar person. One-to-one relationship possible. Black, Latino or white okay. Send P/P to: 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-247, West Hollywood, CA 90046. (9)

Ex-football jock, GWM, 6'3", 250#, 50 y/o seeks hot hung black or Latin top. If you enjoy hot times with very straight acting professional—new to area—send photo and phone # to Box 191, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. Rel. pos. (9)

Puerto Rican, 22, 5'10", seeking a BM who is masculine, unpredictable, romantic and spirited for a monogamous relationship. 213-679-0575. (9)

GWM seeks BM over 25, drug -free in

the Inglewood area. No fems. Send name and telephone number to BLK Mailbox #8. (9)

Good-looking GWM, 5'11", 37, 190 lbs., looking for HIV+ black top man for safe sex and companionship. Enjoy running, tennis and most sports; R&B music and the theater. Want an athlete with an intellect and curiosity about the world. Write Steve at BLK Mailbox #7. (9)

Creole male, good-looking, 30, 5'8", 145#, seeks Puerto Rican, brown Latin or brown men with big buns and nice build. Very hairy a plus. Should be versatile. Call Pat 818-892-5283. (9)

Horse-hung guys wanted by masculine, hot, blonde boy. I'm 22, tan, slim, smooth, and seek guys hung 10" or more and XXX thick for service and safe fun. Nude photo a must to MJ, 8033 Sunset #411, L.A. 90046. (9)

Fine white dude, healthy, hung seeks big black dick. Mutual. Safe. 213-281-6998. Be all man. (Uncut a plus.) (9)

BiBM, 34, 6', 175, hot, safe, total top, masculine, good-looking, hung 10x6 seeks hot, masculine, bottom. Photo/phone to Box 29243, Los Angeles 90027. (9)

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160 lbs. quiet, pleasant natured, drug-free, wishes to meet black, married, educated with good body for regular meetings with utmost discretion and safety assured. You be 6'2", + 30-40 yrs., big skin 7+, top, and be genuine, sincere and who wants the best of both worlds. Photo appreciated and returned. No games. Only the serious need apply. BLK Mailbox #4. (9)

Asian, 33, 5'9", seeks athletic 20-35 for safe relationship. 415-827-9973. (9)

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•**Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

•**Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

•**All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.

•**Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK mailbox for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

•**Replying to a BLK mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Mailbox # \_\_\_\_\_  
BLK Classifieds  
Box 83912  
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

•**Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

Please complete and sign the following. This information will not appear in your ad.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Deadline: Third Friday of the month prior to publication.

Figure cost of ad:

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 5¢ (employment only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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BLK Mailbox at \$5 per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

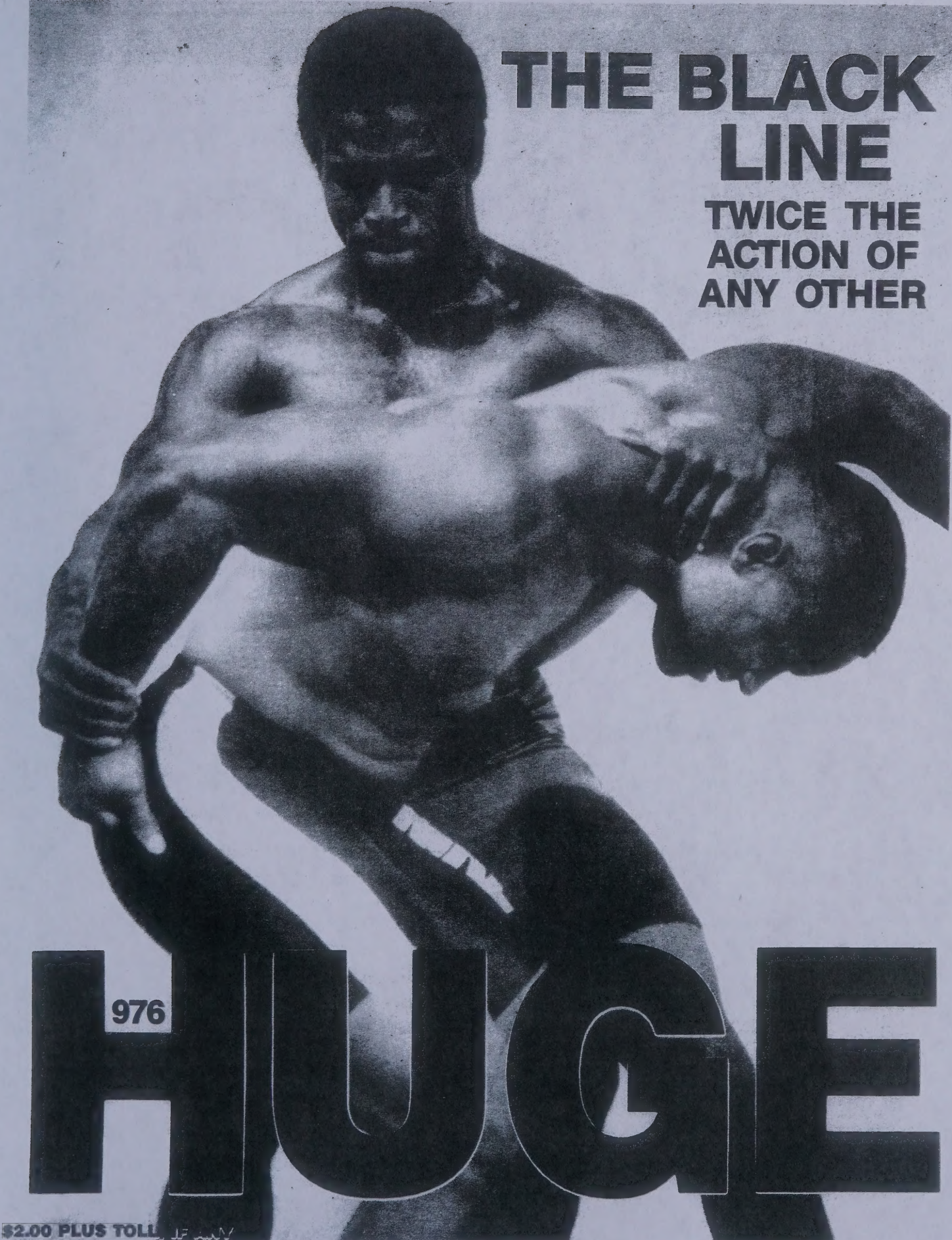
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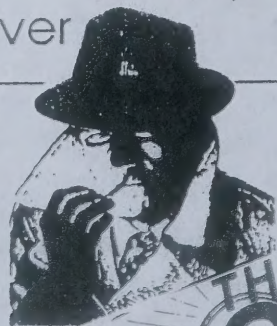
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**Male and Female Exotic Show**

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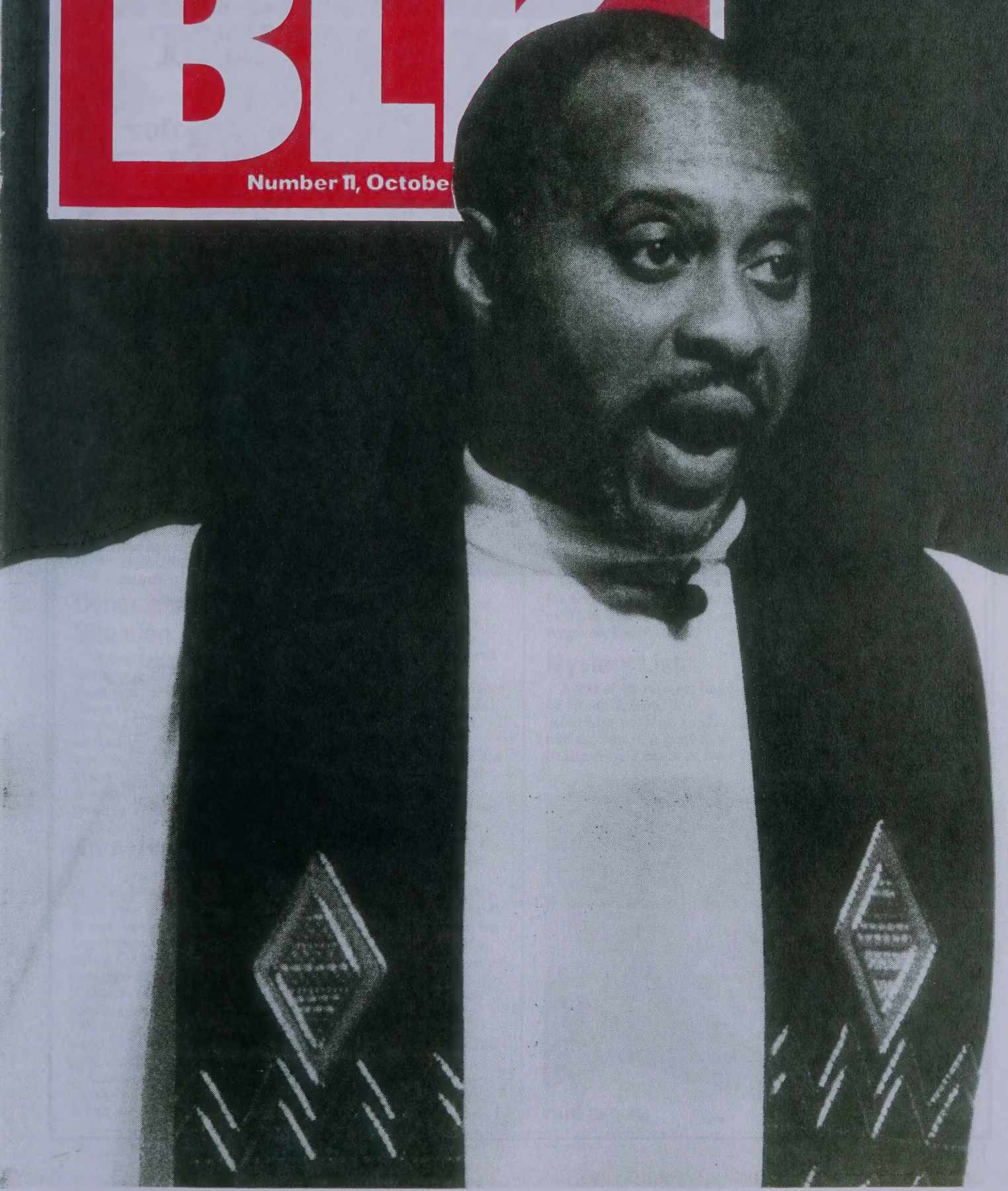
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# BLK

Number II, October





# MAN HUNT

## Wanted: Men of Color to Join Us



*Oct. 8, Sunday...*

**Salute to Gentlemen Concerned.** Catch One, 3 to 7 p.m. Free. Minority AIDS Project pays tribute to 12 committed men whose fundraising efforts for Minority AIDS Project's Dignity House has raised over \$70,000 since 1985. Entertainment. Light refreshments. Videos. AIDS information.

*Oct. 10, Wednesday...*

**Just for Men Snack 'n Chat.** Minority AIDS Project, 7 p.m. Confidential, frank conversation. Topics: HIV testing. Sexual negotiation. How to use condoms correctly. HIV transmission and safer sex techniques. Booze, drugs and sex. Facilitators: Paul Davis, Roger Pamplin, Bobby Smith, Dr. Wilbert Jordan. Light refreshments.

*Oct. 29, Sunday...*

**Hey, Brother, Let's Talk Man to Man.** Hosted by Black Gay Men's Rap Group, 3 to 5 p.m. Minority AIDS Project. Videos. Free AIDS education information. Candid discussion about issues surrounding AIDS. Come out and ask questions. Facilitator: Paul Davis, Health Educator.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?  
Call Paul Davis  
(213) 936-4949**

*We're here to help  
...because we care*

**Minority AIDS  
Project**

5149 W. Jefferson  
(at Sycamore)  
Los Angeles, CA 90016



# WORD UP



Sometimes what it takes to put a life back together is a hammer and nails.

In Lima, Ohio, a woman drives home a nail. And drives home a new skill. Another tears down an old wall. And tears down old defeatism. These women are rehabilitating a neighborhood. And at the same time, they are rehabilitating themselves. They are inmates at the nearby Marysville prison who are contributing to a neighborhood revitalization project funded, in part, by General Dynamics. They learn to replace drywall, fixtures, cabinetry, stairways, porches, siding, roofing, and more.

For the community, the result is very high quality, affordable family housing. For prisoners turned productive, the result is new confidence, new job skills, and a new chance at life.

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**  
A Strong Company For A Strong Country

## Dynamics of the Situation

Though we might have preferred something other than a prison situation, there is a lyricism about a recent General Dynamics ad featuring two women—one black one white—that is very nice. We caught the pitch in the Sept. 11 issue of *The New Yorker*.

## An Axl to Grind

The lyrics to "One in a Million," by the white hard-rock group, Guns n' Roses, has some interesting things to say about—using their terminology—niggers and faggots.

One verse goes: "Police and niggers, that's right/Get outta my way/Don't need to buy none/Of your gold chains today."

Another goes: "Immigrants and faggots/They make no sense to me/They

come to our country/And think they'll do as they please/Like start some mini-Iran or spread some fuckin' disease."

In a *Rolling Stone* interview, group leader W. Axl Rose, explains: "I used words like police and niggers because you're not allowed to use the word nigger. Why can black people go up to each other and say, 'Nigger,' but when a white guy does it all of a sudden it's a big putdown?...I used the word nigger because it's a word to describe somebody that is basically a pain in your life, a problem. The word nigger doesn't necessarily mean black."

Want more? Rose goes on: "I've had some very bad experiences with homosexuals. When I was first coming to Los Angeles. I was about 18 or 19. On my first hitchhiking ride, this guy told me I

could crash at his hotel. I went to sleep and woke up while this guy was trying to rape me. I threw him on the floor. He came at me again. I went running for the door. He came at me. I pinned him between the door and the wall. I had a straight razor, and I pulled the razor and said, 'Don't ever touch me! Don't ever think about touching me! Don't touch yourself and think about me! Nothing!' Then I grabbed my stuff and split with no place to go, no sleep, in the middle of nowhere outside of St. Louis. That's why I have the attitude I have."

But Rose has different rules for women. "I'm not into gay or bisexual experiences," he says. "But that's hypocritical of me, because I'd rather see two women together than just about anything else. That happens to be my personal, favorite thing."

Guns n' Roses records for Geffen which is located at 9130 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90069.

## Mystery List

A list of 66 names, headed "Peek-A-Boo," but otherwise with no explanation, ran in a gray box in the Aug. 7 issue of *New*

York's gay and lesbian weekly, *OutWeek*.

Seven African-Americans appeared on the mystery list. They are Michael Jackson, Mike Tyson, Tracy Chapman, Whitney Houston, Eddie Murphy, Luther Vandross and Whoopi Goldberg.

## Dedicated to the Ones We Love

Among the credits and legal notices on Patti LaBelle's new album, *Be Yourself*, you'll find the following message:

"This album is dedicated to my very ill loved ones. Those who are still here hanging on and those who tried to hang on, but had to leave and are now at peace. (Malik Smith—you'll never be forgotten; Sylvester—you make me feel mighty real.) I know you'll hear this wherever you are."

## Tell the Tale

If you happen across something funny, strange, outrageous or homophobic, drop a note to Leon Miller, BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. If we use it, we'll send you either a lottery ticket or a 1989 Nissan 300ZX.



Patti LaBelle



# BLK MAIL

## Credit Due and Payable

Dear Editor:

I love your magazine, and read it regularly. Congratulations on being there and being a new and vital force in L.A.

I confess I begin each month's read with "Read My Lips." I can't help it. Anyway, in your September issue you say, in regard to the National Conference on HIV among Racial and Ethnic Populations in Washington: "It was surprising how many white-run, well-funded AIDS agencies which claim to be doing minority outreach sent no one—or at least no one black."

I wanted to let you know that Dr. Sylvia Rhue, assistant director of counseling services and Tom Soto, counseling services staff member, both represented GLCSC at the conference.

FYI, we are now the second largest HIV-services organization here in L.A., have 40 percent people of color on staff, and are increasingly networking with autonomous people of color, AIDS organizations as well as directly serving people of color with need for HIV services.

So, let's give credit where it's due, right?

*Torie Osborn*

*Executive Director*

*Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center  
Los Angeles, Calif.*

*Preston G. Guider replies: You got it, dear. But you are part of a mere handful.*

## Baldwin and Homophobia

Dear Editor:

Ricardo Mikelson's article on the late James Baldwin (BLK, August 1989) was a blackwash. As powerfully as

Baldwin's writings testify to the rue and richness of the black experience, the man died a homophobe.

If, as Mikelson says, Baldwin disliked the term gay because he "never understood exactly what was meant by it," that lack of understanding did not come from any confusion about homosexuality or about himself. Gay is to homosexual as black is to Negro. I have no doubt that Baldwin, whose writings unleashed the light at the very heart of blackness, understood full well the metamorphosis of consciousness "gay" represents.

He may not have wanted to identify with that emergent consciousness for any of a number of reasons; that is what Mikelson might usefully have explored. I suspect, based upon the anger he revealed when first speaking publicly about his gayness at a 1983 Black and White Men Together meeting in New York, that he did not accept that the burden of gayness was equivalent to that of blackness: Whereas blacks cannot elude racism, gays can evade homophobia by passing for straight.

Ironically, Baldwin could not pass; he was not merely gay, he was a queen, as anybody who ever saw the man had to know. That fact could also have alienated him from the gay movement. Given the generation and society in which he grew up, he almost certainly suffered ambivalence about his effeminacy and homeliness. What matters to us is that he flayed those feelings into bitterly beautiful prose. What mattered to him, perhaps, was that he was willing to take up the pen to defend his love of men, but not necessarily the men themselves.

I see no criticism of Baldwin in any of this. He fought the war he saw as his. Occasionally he sallied forth to do battle for love between men and oh, what a warrior he then could be! For me, *Giovanni's Room* was a gulp of water in a desert, nourishing my gay soul aburning.

We do not need to insist that homophobia took no toll on Jimmy's soul. Living black delighted, enraged, inspired him. Loving gay thrilled, tortured and daunted him. I love even the warts on Baldwin's ugly/beautiful face. He lived without make-up. Let's bury him that way.

*Charles Stewart  
Los Angeles, Calif.*

## For Whom the BLK Toils

Dear Editor:

I am writing to tell you what a fine magazine/newspaper BLK is. I hope I am not being intrusive in my reading and praising the periodical as I am a non-African-American lesbian.

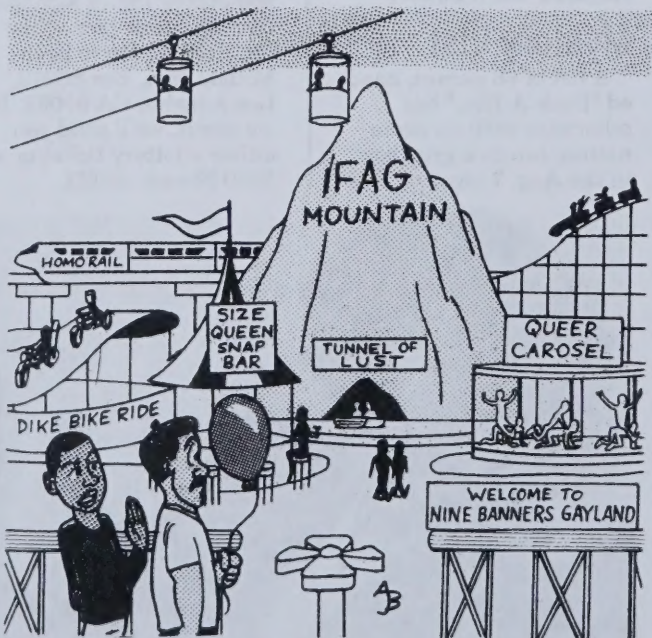
I first picked up BLK by the attraction of the cover. I soon found insightful journalism and an attempt to also represent the lesbian community. This is refreshing. With so much money poured into so many shoddy at best "white boys' mags," it is wonderful to read BLK.

I also admire the courage it takes to address issues within one's own community, such as the homophobia of rap music, or much of it. As a lesbian, I have often had to face uncomfortable issues within the lesbian, feminist and Jewish communities, all my own "families."

Please keep up the excellent work, and I hope you don't mind attracting those for whom the magazine is not directly published.

*Missy Kullman  
Sherman Oaks, Calif.*

*Although the black lesbian and gay experience is the subject and focus of BLK, we like to think it's for everyone. Bagels oftentimes find themselves in African-American mouths.*



*"I applaud them for courting the gay dollar, but I'm not sure they've got it right, yet."*



# News of the BLK Family

BLK was called the "best new lesbian and gay periodical, period" by *L.A. Weekly* in its annual survey of what's superior in Southern California. Printed in its Sept. 22-28, 1989 issue, the notice said, "Gay L.A.'s hottest ingenue read is the brainchild of black (and proud!) lesbians and gays whose effort is setting a standard for the rest of us."

The item also said, "The monthly magazine BLK has it all: features that thoroughly explore the convoluted politics and paradigm-hopping that makes progressive lives so interesting, an unpredictable news survey with an especially sharp eye on same-sex love's status in popular culture; humor that might really make somebody laugh; and interviews with a range of provocative personalities, from lesbian poetic luminary Audre Lorde to AIDS activist Roger Pampin to international literary heavyweight James Baldwin."

Thanks, *L.A. Weekly*. So often, the only feedback we get is from people who *don't* like Preston, or *don't* like the cartoons, or *don't* like the classifieds, or *don't* like the full-page ads, or *don't* like the features, or *don't* like the news stories. It's nice to get a positive pat on the back from a source that evidently understands what we're trying to do.—A.B.

# BLK

Number 11, October 1989

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If you wish to have a letter considered for publication, address it to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. You may also send letters by fax: 213-410-9250. Keep your letter brief, and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.

Cover: Rev. George Augustus Stallings, Jr. Story on page 11. Photo by Larry Morris, *Washington Post*.

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# BLK BOARD

To have your event put on the Blk Board, contact Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the November issue is October 20, 1989. The Blk Board is designed for one-time events. Recurring events are Blk Listed.

Blk Board also acts as a Master Calendar for the black gay community so that scheduling conflicts between events can be minimized. Blk keeps information on both firm and tentative events. Contact us either to let us know the details of your organization's event, or to determine if other events are already scheduled for a particular day.

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1989

17th Annual Court Investiture. Imperial Court of South Bay. Community people will be honored with titles. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 6 p.m. \$10. 213-671-7323.

"Hands Across West Hollywood" fundraising effort by the Organizing Committee of Remember the Day. Portion of the proceeds will go to black-oriented AIDS organizations. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Warschaw, 1008 Benedict Canyon Rd., Beverly Hills. 1-4 p.m.

Nude beach outing. Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. 11 a.m. 213-483-1108.

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1989

Going Away Party for Bruce Johnson. Entertainment. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 4 p.m. 213-737-9678.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1989

Latina Lesbian Support Group will meet for six consecutive Tuesday evenings: September 26-October 31, 1989. Series will be closed after the second session. LAPIS, Alcoholism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Calif. 7-9 p.m. \$15, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay. 213-381-7805.

"Obelisk: Dancing to a Point" presented by Bob Braucci Productions. Benefit for Stop AIDS Los Angeles. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. \$8. 213-659-4778.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1989

Black Women's Support Group will meet for six consecutive Wednesday evenings: September 27-November 8, 1989. Series will be closed after the second session. LAPIS, Alcoholism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, Calif. 7-9 p.m. \$15, but no one will be turned away for inability to pay. 213-381-7805.

## OCTOBER

AIDS Awareness Month in Los Angeles County.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1989

Benefit for Minority AIDS Project. Gil Gerald will attend. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles. 4-8 p.m. 213-737-9678.

Parlor games and pot luck. Black and White Men Together. Los Angeles. 3 p.m. Call Doug at 213-664-5709.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "How Labels Can Limit People." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1989

The Minority AIDS Project will participate in an inter-AIDS agency gathering at the County Mall in downtown Los Angeles. The names of the more than 5000 L.A. county residents who have died of AIDS will be read. 11:30 a.m.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1989

"Jock Strap Aerobics." 45-minute men's workout. Will continue first, second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. 213-734-8849. 8-9 p.m. First session free.

Dr. Wilbert Jordan will be the principal speaker at a "medical

update" and "access to medication" seminar. Co-sponsored by the City of Los Angeles AIDS coordinator's office. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1989

Demonstration and show of civil disobedience sponsored by ACT-UP/LA, ACT-UP/Long Beach and Orange County Visibility League. Rev. Carl Bean and Gil Gerald will participate. Federal Bldg., Wilshire at Veteran, Los Angeles. 6 a.m. 213-668-2357, 213-654-1639.

Rap session for women PWAs. Los Angeles Southwest College, 1600 W. Imperial Hwy., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-noon. Call Cynthia Davis at 213-567-7799 or Mary Ashley at 213-603-4755.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1989

Jane Edwards (at 8:25 p.m.) will be among the entertainers performing at Pioneer Pride Festival '89. Sponsored by the Valley Business Alliance. Continues through tomorrow. Held at the RTD Park-n-Ride Lot, 11000 Ventura Blvd. (just east of Vineland), Studio City Calif. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. \$8 in advance, \$10 at door.

Film comedy, to be announced. Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. 10 p.m. Call Ramon at 213-854-5761.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1989

The Original Sin Sisters (at 5:30 p.m.) and Linda Clifford (at 8:30 p.m.) will be among the entertainers performing at Pioneer Pride Festival '89. Sponsored by the Valley Business Alliance. Held at the RTD Park-n-Ride Lot, 11000 Ventura Blvd. (just east of Vineland), Studio City Calif. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. \$8 in advance, \$10 at door.

AIDS Awareness Sunday. Rev. Carl Bean, Frankie Lennon and L. Paul Davis will speak on AIDS awareness and education. Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. 11:30 a.m.

Minority AIDS Project sponsors "A Salute to Gentlemen Concerned." Complimentary buffet, entertainment and dancing. Dressy. Colors: black and white. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-7 p.m. No cover. 213-936-4949.

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1989

"Minorities and AIDS; Facing the Facts." Minority persons with AIDS speak on family, job relations, religious experiences. St. Brigid Hall, 5214 S. Western Ave., Los Angeles. 6:30 p.m. 213-631-4397.

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave. #203, Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1989

Open house for National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and the Black and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 3924 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles. 5-9 p.m. 213-666-5493.

"Just for Men Snack and Chat." For men who have sex with men. Dr. Wilbert Jordan, principal facilitator. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1989

Second annual "National Coming Out Day—Los Angeles." Among the all-day activities are two rooms of videos including *We Have a Legacy* by Sylvia Rhue, *Women in Love, Rights and Reactions* and a work about black gay South African anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli and a white counterpart. At 6 p.m. members of the general public will tell how they came out. Honored guests include Jewel Williams and Deborah Johnson. Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Free. 213-464-7400.

AIDS Videorama and Poster Program. AIDS and drug abuse information. Co-sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project, and the Drug Abuse and AIDS Program Offices of the L.A. County Health Department. Jewel's Room, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. 8-10 p.m.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1989

AIDS Update. King-Drew Medical Center, Claude Hudson Auditori-



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um, 12021 S. Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-6 p.m. Call Cynthia Davis at 213-567-7799 or Mary Ashley at 213-603-4755.

HIV and AIDS education. Presentation to housing project residents. Hacienda Village. 10-11 a.m. 213-567-7799.

AIDS Videorama and Poster Program. AIDS and drug abuse information. Jewel's Room, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. 8-10 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1989**

Gospel Fest. Singing, prayer and awards. Sponsored by the Minority AIDS Council on AIDS. California Recreation Center, 1550 Martin Luther King, Long Beach, Calif. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 213-591-3381.

AIDS Info Fest. AIDS information, youth raffle and entertainment for minority teenagers. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. 1-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-936-4949.

"(this is not) an AIDS Reading" sponsored by Words Project for AIDS. Participants will include Essex Hemphill and Assotto Saint, among others. Proceeds to local AIDS organizations. Gallery Theater, Barnsdall Park, Hollywood Blvd. at New Hampshire Ave., Hollywood, Calif. 8 p.m. \$5.

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1989**

AIDS Awareness Sunday at several black churches in South Central Los Angeles. For more information call the National Organization of Black County Officials at 213-567-7799, or King-Drew Medical Center at 213-603-4755.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Is Being Gay a Natural Thing?" Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

"Sisters in the Name of Love" featuring Nadirah Ali, Judie Jones, Tonett McKinney, Rene Scott. An afternoon of musical history. Benefit for Rue's House. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles. 6 p.m. reception; 7 p.m. performance. \$5. 213-734-8849.

#### **MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1989**

New black PWA group forming: "Blacks Living with HIV Infection, ARC and AIDS." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. Attendance is limited to blacks who are HIV+, who have ARC or who have AIDS. 7 p.m. 213-666-5493.

#### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1989**

New York Poet Assotto Saint, author of *Stations*, will read from his works. A Different Light, 4014 Santa Monica, Los Angeles. 8 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1989**

Rap session for PWAs. Los Angeles Southwest College, 1600 W. Imperial Hwy., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-noon. Call Cynthia Davis at 213-567-7799 or Mary Ashley at 213-603-4755.

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1989**

AIDS Update. King-Drew Medical Center, Claude Hudson Auditorium, 12021 S. Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles. 3-6 p.m. Call Cynthia Davis at 213-567-7799 or Mary Ashley at 213-603-4755.

"(this is not) an AIDS Reading" sponsored by Words Project for AIDS. Participants will include June Jordan and Essex Hemphill, among others. Proceeds to local AIDS organizations. Victoria Theater, 2961 - 16th St., San Francisco, Calif. 8 p.m. \$5.

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Roots Room, Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. 213-666-5493.

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1989**

BWMT/Milwaukee celebrates its ninth anniversary and hosts Midwest/Heartland Regional Conference. October 20-22, 1989. Stanley Miller will speak. Friday evening reception at Hotel Wisconsin, 720 N. Old World Third St. Workshops at Community Center, 225 S. 2nd St. Meals at M&M Club, 124 N. Water St. \$40 includes Friday evening reception, Saturday lunch and banquet dinner, Sunday brunch, workshops and regional meetings. Call Michael at 414-265-8500.

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1989**

Roller skate night. Black and White Men/Together. 7:30 p.m. Call Diamond at 213-738-7394.

#### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989**

"Nutrition Workshop for Better Health." Features complimentary nutritional buffet. Jewel's Room, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles,

Calif. 7-9 p.m. 213-734-8849.

"Blacks, Sexuality and AIDS" is the title of a forum and of a videotape to be presented by the National Organization for Black County Officials, the Minority AIDS Project and the Counseling Services Dept. of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center. Among the panelists: Dr. Sylvia Rhue and Gil Gerald. King-Drew Medical Center, Claude Hudson Auditorium, 12021 S. Wilmington Ave., Los Angeles. 1-4 p.m. Free. For more information, contact Cynthia Davis at 213-567-7799 or Mary Ashley at 213-603-4755.

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1989**

"The Role of the Church in the AIDS epidemic." King-Drew Medical Center, Interns and Residents Building, 12012 S. Compton Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, contact Cynthia Davis at 213-567-7799 or Mary Ashley at 213-603-4755.

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1989**

Rap session for women PWAs. L.A. Southwest College, 1600 W. Imperial Hwy., Los Angeles. 10 a.m.-noon. Call Cynthia Davis at 213-567-7799 or Mary Ashley at 213-603-4755.

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1989**

Halloween party. The Study, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 9:30 p.m. 213-464-9551.

Halloween party. Prize for the best costume. Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. 9:30 p.m. until. Call Rene 213-483-1108.

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1989**

Halloween party. The Study, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 9:30 p.m. 213-464-9551.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Hey, brother, safe sex rap." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

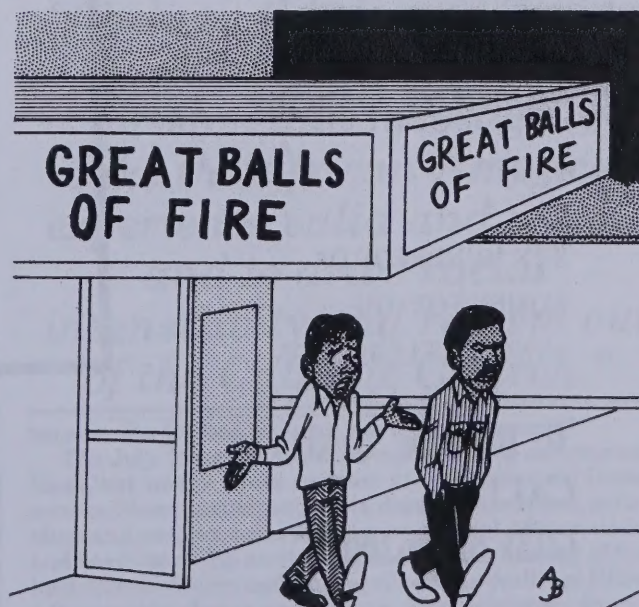
#### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1989**

Halloween party. The Study, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 9:30 p.m. 213-464-9551.

Masquerade ball. Special guests and costume prizes. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-734-8849.

#### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1989**

"Treatment Issues in Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men" sponsored by Democratic Workplaces. Workshop co-facilitated by a team composed of a person of color and a white person. YWCA, 135 Broad St., Hartford, Conn. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$45. Call 203-951-4496 or write to Democratic Workplaces, Box 6365, Hartford, Conn. 06106.



"I didn't know. I thought it was a porno movie."



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# Black and (Not) Gay

*D.C. Priest breaks from Catholic Church to start own black congregation*

By Alan Smithee

Rev. George Augustus Stallings, Jr., who defied Catholic church authorities to start an alternative African-American Catholic congregation in Washington, D.C., says his church "will not pass away" despite allegations that he had repeated sexual relations with an altar boy.

The charges were contained in a front-page story in the Sept. 4 *Washington Post*, which reported that a former altar

## COVER STORY

boy at Stallings's parish in 1977 said he had consensual sexual relations with the priest in the church rectory over a period of months.

"I will not dignify with a response the scurrilous and baseless charge," Stallings said in a statement distributed to the news media. "I believe that this charge and accusation is a concerted effort to divert attention from my mission and message to make the African-American experience valid and whole, and to drive racial insensitivity and racism out of the Catholic Church which I love so much," he said.

"Imani Temple will not pass away," Stallings said in the written statement. In Swahili, "imani" means "faith."



Stallings, 41, a popular and prominent priest in Washington for a decade, broke from the church July 2 when he established the Imani Temple, claiming the Archdiocese of Washington did not go far enough in allowing priests to incorporate black culture with the traditional Catholic service. Stallings was suspended by Cardinal James Hickey, archbishop of Washington, and prohibited from celebrating mass at any area church. There are 80,000 African-American Catholics in the Washington archdiocese, which covers the nation's capital and suburban Maryland.

Stallings held the first Imani Temple service at the chapel at Howard University Law School, attracting a crowd of 4000 people.

The priest said he did not want to break with the church, but was foiled in efforts to bring more ethnic African-American culture into a church traditionally run by a predominantly white, conservative male hierarchy.

"They tell us that the right way is to wait. Catholic Church, black folks have been waiting," Stallings shouted to

thunderous applause during his homily to at least 800 people jammed into the chapel, hundreds more watching on closed-circuit television and an overflow crowd listening outside the chapel on a public address system.

"We've waited on you, and I'm telling you we can't wait any longer," Stallings said during an emotional sermon, the centerpiece of a nearly four-hour service. "How much longer does the Roman Catholic Church need to tell us we must wait? It's too little, too late."

Hickey, in a statement, called Imani Temple "a step backward" for race relations within the church.

"One of the tragic consequences of today's action is that it draws away necessary attention and support from ongoing and significant efforts within the church to respond to the needs and gifts of African-American Catholics," Hickey said.

Seven priests representing the predominantly black parishes in southeast Washington issued a statement criticizing Stallings, saying African-American cultural expressions can already be found in many of the city's parishes.

But Stallings and many in the congregation said the church has failed to permit black Americans the freedom to remain Catholic while also fully celebrating their heritage.

"It's very disturbing to me," said Angela Jones-Verdelle, 29, a statistician from Boston and former Washingtonian who came to the city to attend Stallings's service. "I'm not interested in Latin, Latin hymns or white Catholic colors. We're not going to deny ourselves as Catholics, as Christians,

*"I believe this is an effort to divert attention from my mission and message to make the African-American experience valid and whole, and to drive racial insensitivity and racism out of the Catholic Church."*

because the Catholic Church doesn't understand."

The July 2 service included many of the ceremonies of Mass, but was in sharp contrast to the often staid Catholic service. Many participants were dressed in oranges, yellows, blues and purples, some wearing traditional African clothing and headwear. The service began amid the beating of hand-held African drums and ringing of bells as Stallings followed a 30-member chorus and a dozen other ministers down the aisle and prostrated himself on the floor before the altar.

Crosses, configured with diamonds in black, red and



green, hung above the altar. The service was punctuated throughout by music (a mixture of jazz, evangelical melodies and traditional African music) and dancing and swaying among the congregation.

In a break with the traditional Mass, the second reading was not from the Bible but from a writing by Howard Thurman, an African-American spiritual leader. At one point in the service Stallings embraced a representative of Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.

**T**he unidentified man who says he had sex with Stallings said the first incident occurred in the rectory on a summer afternoon when Stallings, whom he respected and considered "a great role model," asked the 16-year-old to kneel next to him on the carpet and share a loaf of bread.

"He started touching my ear. And one thing led to another and we ended up upstairs in his room," the man said in an interview. "And, you know, that was the start of the relationship right there, at least the sexual relationship."

The man, now 28, says he never reported the relationship to church authorities. No reason has been given for why the man waited 12 years to report the incident, or why he chose this particular time to go public with the information.

Stallings has declined to be interviewed.

The day the story appeared, 40 of Stallings supporters picketed silently outside the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Mount Pleasant, where Cardinal James A. Hickey, who has clashed with the priest, celebrated a Labor Day Mass. "Hickey, Everybody's Got a Closet," one sign said. Others read, "Character Assassination Will Not Work," "Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, not the *Washington Post*," and "Lies! Lies! Lies! Imani Temple is the Truth."

After the Mass, Hickey read a brief, handwritten statement to reporters: "I was sorry to read the allegation. If it is true, then I feel great sorrow and sympathy for everyone involved especially the young man." Hickey said he "will be

*"I'll tell you about my sexuality when you discover how many homosexuals are working right there in the pastoral center of the Washington Archdiocese."*

watching the matter." The cardinal would not answer questions.

In a written statement issued Sept. 4 declining requests for interviews, Stallings said, "All sane people should refuse to box with shadows," apparently referring to the use of the man's allegation without publishing his name. The man had agreed that his name could be disclosed to Stallings before publication, but Stallings twice declined the offer and would not discuss the matter.

"We are outraged that the *Washington Post* would stoop to yellow journalism to go back to 1977 to get this nameless person," said the leader of the protest, Stanley Boucree. "Celibacy leads one to a homosexual life. Homosexuality, pedophilia and deviant sexual practices are rampant in the Catholic Church."

When asked if he believed Hickey had encouraged the story, Boucree said, "Your conclusion is correct."

Stallings's statement also included these remarks, which

were attributed to his spokesman: "We, at Imani Temple, believe that the *Post*'s story is a piece of journalistic irresponsibility and fantasy. Again, the news media has launched a negative assault on a black leader. As black peo-

On a talk show on WJLA-TV, host Paul Berry quizzed the Rev. Stallings about the allegations that he had engaged in sex with the altar boy.

"What [Catholics] deserve to hear from you," Berry said, "is that if I ask you, 'Have you had any sexual relations with boys?'...you can say yes or no."

Stallings replied, "My answer [is] to those people whom I served, those persons who are touched by my ministry. I say to them, I am the same pastor today as I was 12 years ago...when I first ministered to you. I have not changed. You know that my credentials are impeccable and that my morals are beyond reproach."

Berry continued, "Rev. Stallings, it just doesn't answer the question, though. You can say, 'No, I've never had any sex relationships with anybody,' if that's true. Is that true?"

Said Stallings, "It's not a question of answering yes or no...For me to give any type of response...would mean first and foremost that I would allow a single issue—whether it would be sexuality, whether it would be my life...whether I wear my hair long or short—to become the driving concern, rather than the central issue of focus that there is racism in the Catholic Church."

Stallings ended the interview with Berry by saying that in his new church, celibacy for priests would be optional. "I would like to get married and have a wife and children, definitely," he told Berry. "There is a whole lot of man in me."

ple we understand their tactic: 'Knock the leader and the movement falls.'

"We will not let unfounded charges turn us from our purpose. We will expend every energy to drive racial insensitivity and marginalization out of the Catholic church which we all deeply love. The obvious absence of responsible standards exhibited in the *Post* report should be deeply disturbing to everyone. Twelve-year-old rumors from an unnamed source—foolishness!"

Preaching in a three-hour Sept. 10 service that resembled a political rally, Stallings once again said he would not respond to any allegation. "Whatever charges you put in your newspaper or on TV, read my lips: I will not dignify it with a response. As African-Americans, we refuse to allow you to set our agenda."

At one point, Stallings added, "They're talking about what happened in the past, which didn't even go on in the first place."

Stallings challenged the media to conduct a comprehensive probe of the Roman Catholic Church.

"I'll be glad to tell you about my sexuality," he said, "when you investigate the cases of priests, sisters, bishops, that have been convicted of pedophilia...I'll tell you about my sexuality when you can tell me the number of cases when priests have impregnated women and had babies by them. I'll tell you about my sexuality when you discover how many homosexuals are working right there in the pastoral center of the Archdiocese of Washington. If you want a story, I just gave you a story. Now go dig up the dirt."

The crowd roared to the cadence of drummers on the stage.

The auditorium overflowed at the 11 a.m. Mass. Stallings said that more people than ever also came to the 8 a.m. Mass. He said a second African-American Catholic Congregation would open soon in the Washington area and would ce-



lebrate Mass on Saturday evenings. It will be named "Kujichangulia," which he said means "self determination."

The day before the allegations surfaced, in a rousing sermon at the church's temporary home at Suitland High School, which he entitled "The Devil Is in Our Midst," Stallings told the members of his congregation that an article about "improprieties," was being prepared but he gave no details.

"When you read in the newspaper or see on the television some story that they ain't got no evidence and they're trying to say that they do, let me tell you something, church, they ain't got no truth."

Over the last several years, diocesan officials say they have heard from parishioners and other Catholics who question Stallings conduct. In particular, they questioned a lifestyle that in their view included the presence of young men and boys at the rectory, and later at Augustus Manor, the turn-of-the-century home that Stallings bought and renamed for himself.

Three years ago, one person wrote a letter to then-archbishop Hickey, alleging that Stallings had a sexual relationship with a male member of the person's family. The letter prompted a formal archdiocesan investigation, according to sources, but the inquiry ended after the person refused to talk.

Sources said that church authorities have approached Stallings several times in the last few years about parishioners' concerns regarding his lifestyle. He told church authorities, the sources said, that he had done nothing wrong and that all he was doing was giving these young men jobs and a sense of self-worth.

About three months ago, Hickey confronted Stallings with concerns about his lifestyle, including whether Stallings had engaged in any sexual behavior, which would violate his priestly vow of celibacy, according to sources.

One of the things Hickey told Stallings was that the presence of young men at his house left people with a bad impression. Stallings told Hickey their presence didn't imply anything improper was going on, according to the source.

Hickey and Stallings met because Stallings, who at that point had left St. Teresa's and was director of evangelism in the archdiocese, wanted to have another parish.

The cardinal refused to grant the request unless Stallings sought "treatment" at the Servants of the Paraclete hospital in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico, a church-owned facility that is known for attending to those the church feels have character disorders.

Stallings refused. In a interview two months ago, Stallings dismissed Hickey's request as ridiculous. In another interview, he said he considered it a ruse to get rid of him. "If I'd gone," he said, "you wouldn't be sitting here having an interview with me. That's a place for dysfunctional priests who have alcohol or psychosexual problems."

On June 19, shortly after the meeting with the cardinal, Stallings announced he was starting his own church.

The man who said he had a sexual relationship with Stallings was a sophomore at the Catholic high school and lived with his mother when Stallings arrived at St. Teresa's in the fall of 1976. His father had died when the boy was 6.

"My mom had sent me to St. Teresa's...because I was hanging around the house too much, so she wanted to get me out and do something positive," he said.

He joined the boys' choir, became an altar boy and expressed such interest in the church that another priest asked

him if he wanted to enter the priesthood, he said.

Over the next few months, the man said, he and his friends began to visit the rectory, which Stallings had recently renovated. They needed a place to hang out, and they also needed a father figure, he said.

"It was [Stallings's] personality, which is very warm, I mean he was the type of person you wanted to be around."

Then came the day the two shared bread. "He talked about how the breaking of bread between two people is a very—how do you say it—a very special thing, a very caring thing," the man said. He said he and Stallings had oral sex that day and two or three times a week over the next three or four months.

"He was saying things along the line that this was okay and that this was fine, this is something very special between two friends, and that it was nothing to be ashamed of or afraid of...I thought it was wrong because this man was a priest and he was supposed to have this vow of chastity..."

They had sexual relations only in the church rectory, he said, although sometimes, "after Mass, he would pull me aside, like into the side room there, he would kiss me, which I thought was awfully bold." The man said that over time he became uneasy with the relationship and broke it off.

The man said his only previous sexual experience was "kissing girls at school." He said he is now gay and said the relationship with Stallings "was a deciding factor" in his sexual orientation.

This is contrary to the opinion of most authorities, however, who feel that gay people are not created, but simply brought out.

Years after he left St. Teresa's, he told a lover that he had had a relationship with Stallings. That man, a Washington, D.C. gay activist, was asked about Stallings. He introduced the *Washington Post* reporter to the former altar boy.

He said he did not wish to be identified because he is not

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*He turned St. Teresa's from a dying church to a vibrant congregation of 2,000 before leaving in 1988 after 12 years to become archdiocesan evangelism director.*

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openly gay and his mother still lives in the area. He signed a sworn statement that "the statements made in the interview are true and that the events discussed did occur."

The young man's identity has been confirmed and he was baptized in the Catholic church. A former parishioner as well as a former deacon at St. Teresa, now a priest, both remember that the young man was an altar boy and a choir member while Stallings was at the church.

"He was a good kid, to my recollection. Very friendly. I can't think of anything to say you shouldn't trust him," said the priest, who is stationed in another diocese and asked not to be identified.

The young man described the inside of the rectory and church at St. Teresa's in detail. The former brother at St. Teresa's said the young man's detailed description is accurate.

The young man said his experience with Stallings had a profound effect on his religious attitudes.

"I think he is doing good work with the Imani Temple, and I think it's something that's needed," he said. "But at the same time I worry about those kids who are unsure about



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their sexuality—and at that age most kids are—and you don't need someone that you trust to take advantage to that, which is pretty much what he does."

The man said he was attracted to Stallings partly because

The following are two excerpts from the Sept. 6 broadcast of *Larry King Live* as transcribed by the *Los Angeles Sentinel*. In addition to Host Larry King (K), participants included Rev. Stallings (S) and Father Vincent Miceli (M), a priest and professor of philosophy at Christendom College in the Washington, D.C. area.

S: If I were what you said I was, why would the Cardinal still want me to be a priest in the Washington Archdiocese?

M: I didn't say you were anything.

S: Yes, you did.

M: No. I said there was circumstantial evidence that would give one...and here's what I mean...to suspect. But I didn't say the sources were infallible. In other words, I said it was hearsay.

S: You didn't say it was hearsay! You sat here and said...

K: at the beginning, you [Miceli] said you had two sources in the church, and that it was written, and that the church wanted [Stallings] to go to New Mexico because of the problem he had.

M: Whatever problem he had—I didn't say what it was!

S: I'm not going to sit here and listen to you lie... You sat here on national television—that shows you how the devil works—because I was not here, you tried to get up here and paint me in a bad light.

K: The story in the *Post* that said you had a relationship with a 12-year-old boy is totally false? That's a question. Is it true?

S: The *Post* said it was a 16-year-old. But I will not dignify with a response, scurrilous, unmerited and baseless charges. I believe that this is a concerted effort to divert my attention from the primary mission and message to make the African-American experience valid and whole, and racism out of the Catholic Church, which I love so much. And I have no further comment.

S: If I didn't realize you had a peewee brain, I would argue with you. Let's talk about this. There is a place in New Mexico, as well as other places around the country, that deals with priests that have psychosexual disorders—pedophilia, homosexuality, alcoholism—and these priests have been proven to be these cases. Why don't we concentrate on that.

M: You're off the point. They're admitting their faults, you're not admitting yours.

S: Not everyone there has admitted their fault. They were caught.

M: Maybe you were caught!

S: If you don't be quiet, I'm going to pop you!... Cardinal Hickey ought to tell the truth in this matter. Cardinal Hickey ought to come forth and say that the reason why I wanted George to go to New Mexico had nothing to do with any type of psychosexual problem, it had to do with what I perceived." That's all he has to do. And if he is a man of God, he will do that, and shut you up.

M: Look at this, a stupid fool. All of his problem is with Cardinal Hickey, not with me.

S: No, my problem is with you because you're a consummate jackass.

of the rectory that Stallings had renovated and refurbished; it was a beautiful and comfortable haven in a sometimes desolate neighborhood.

**S**tallings's lifestyle has in itself drawn questions from church officials, who wonder whether it is too lavish for a priest. Stallings's supporters, however, say they are proud that Stallings, born to parents of modest means in rural North Carolina, has risen meteorically in a largely white church and is able to live as well or better than many other Catholics, blacks or white.

Hayden Blanc, a housemate and longtime friend of Stallings's who has helped him furnish his various homes and who has since moved, says that the priest believes his comfortable circumstances inspire young people from poor and moderate-income families to seek a higher standard for living.

In an interview earlier this summer, Stallings said Blanc moved because he was "frustrated living at the rectory, [where] it was, 'Father can you do this, Father can you do that.'"

Stallings says he has been able to pay for his property from speaking fees, which have increased over the last 10 years as he has become better known.

At first he only asked a speaking fee of \$200 a day, the current rate for the average priest. But his talent for evangelizing expanded—"I'm a hybrid of [television evangelist] Jimmy Swaggart and Robert Schuller," he said in an earlier interview—and so did his fees, from \$500 a day to \$1,000. His salary as a priest was between \$10,000 and \$12,000 a year.

In the earlier interview, Stallings estimated he made about 25 out-of-town speaking appearances last year, and several others in the Washington area. Most of these engagements were not official church business, Stallings said, thus he was allowed to keep the fees.

"As diocesan priests, we don't take a vow of poverty," Stallings said. "We can own property, stocks and bonds." Church officials agree that archdiocesan priests, unlike religious order priests, are allowed to earn private income.

The increasing honoraria were a testament to Stallings's flourishing professional reputation. He turned St. Teresa's from a dying church to a vibrant congregation of 2,000 before leaving in 1988 after 12 years to become archdiocesan evangelism director.

"People were able to rise in leadership [under Stallings]; he was not threatened by anything you wanted to do," said a parishioner from St. Teresa's. Stallings was especially successful raising money for St. Teresa's, she said.

In the following year, while traveling around the country, Stallings drew hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people to revivals. Even this summer after Hickey suspended him from the priesthood and warned Catholics not to attend Imani Temple, people came in droves.

His three masses each Sunday at Suitland High School attract about 2,000 combined. Saying that thousands of dollars in contributions were pouring in to support his effort, Stallings announced recently that Imani Temple would open a parochial school in the fall of 1990. Stallings said he plans to build a 10,000-seat church in Prince George's County.

Meanwhile, apparently few mothers and fathers at the Imani Temple are worried about the safety of their teenage sons. Stallings recently called for—and got in overwhelming numbers—volunteers for a new youth choir.

Sources for this article included Laura Sessions Stepp and Bill Dedman, Washington Post; and the Los Angeles Sentinel.





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# Death and AIDS

## *Grieving and bereavement are natural facts of life aggravated by AIDS*

by Ron Keith

**M**ost people are uncomfortable thinking about or discussing death. In spite of the profound and sobering reality that sooner or later we all will die, this is one fact of life few people can address comfortably. It's a reality most choose to deny or ignore.

We postpone the contemplation of death and dying until the later years because we see death as a subject for "old

### FEATURE

age." Death is considered as a natural consequence of aging, consistent with the "natural order of things." This is why the death of a young person is so difficult to accept and causes such emotional distress. When a person dies who has lived a "full and productive life," the death is regarded as more "acceptable." The AIDS epidemic has stood the "natural order of things" on its head. In many communities the old are burying the young—sons and daughters stricken by an incredible, incurable disease. This article will examine several of the many factors that influence an individual's grief and mourning reaction to loss.

**F**orerunners in this area such as Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, author of the seminal *On Death and Dying*, have increased our awareness about the predictable and characteristic human responses to loss and grief. The theory, research and observations of many working in the field of thanatology, or the study of death, suggest a somewhat general and seemingly universal set of complex behaviors that characterize those experiencing loss.

The pattern usually begins when one learns of a significant other's death. Shock gives way to a profound sense of unreality as the news dramatically changes the mourner's spirit and dampens his or her outlook on virtually *every aspect of life*. Enjoyable pleasantries lose their appeal and nothing seems the same. This phase is accompanied by a feelings of numbness as well as diverse and amorphous emotions which are hard to define and identify. Denial and disbelief take hold in this phase.

With virtually all emotionally traumatic experiences, and especially with loss, the process of "obsessional review" becomes focal. During this phase, as Freud theorized in 1917, the individual goes over and over critical details of the death event in an attempt to resolve the questions: "why," and "what if..." The individual continues the obsessional review until the reality of the loss resolves the feelings of denial and disbelief. Many factors influence the readiness of an individual to complete this stage of the process of grief. One important element is how others in the immediate environment adjust and respond. This is why support from friends and

companions is so important. It enables those who grieve to complete this essential stage in the grief process.

As the reality of the loss "hits home," feelings of helplessness, resignation and depression are common. The reality of the loss is often accompanied by a painful awareness of broader implications: adjustments, transitions, the finite nature of life and the consequences for changes in the lives and affairs of those who grieve. The typical characteristics include depression, apathy, loss of enthusiasm, poor concentration, fatigue, pessimism and cynicism, and a general loss of energy and vitality. In severe cases, the depression is prolonged and acute, causing extreme manifestations such as an inability to function and to cope.

Experiences of anger are typical of mourners: anger at those perceived to be responsible for the death, anger at one's self for not doing more, anger at the deceased for disrupting the status quo, and often anger at God, or principles that govern our beliefs of justice, fairness, and right and wrong.

Much remains speculative, however. Some contend that

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*Individuals may also experience deviations in their sexual patterns. For some there is a considerable increase.*

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the level of experienced anger may be directly proportional to the level of experienced helplessness and rage. It is important to note that anger is an important issue in grief recovery and often poses a spiritual crisis. The AIDS epidemic may cause individuals to question their faith, asking why me? Why my child? Why my friend? The nature and manner of resolution of this issue is a critical step in grief recovery and the resolution of a major spiritual crisis and hurdle towards personal growth.

A number of stress-related behaviors and coping mechanisms are common in bereavement and grief reactions. These typical symptoms are important indices for self diagnoses. Individuals may notice some of the following (but rarely all): headaches, stomach and abdomen cramps, indigestion, diarrhea, dizziness, feelings of unreality, and back and neck pains. Individuals may also experience deviations in their normal sleep, eating, and sexual patterns. For some there is a considerable increase, and for others, there is a decrease.

Observations from both research and practical professional consulting suggest a tendency for people to be consistent in their personal idiosyncratic coping style of either increasing or decreasing the intensity of activity in all areas. Consequently, it is not unusual to notice that an individual who loses interest in food and won't eat, also will not be in-



terested in sex, and generally cannot enjoy restful sleep. Other stress symptoms include poor concentration, damaged decision-making abilities, as well as impaired coping skills. Accident proneness during times of emotional crises is a typical symptom of those in mourning.

**T**he pain and anguish of those suffering and dying from complications related to AIDS is the most painful—physically and emotionally. A person with AIDS (PWA) begins to mourn when his or her diagnosis is confirmed. This is known as “anticipatory grief.” This process signals a sense of loss of normalcy to future possibilities and life in general. The bereavement process and associated phases are similar for others who mourn, however, the terminal experience and unique pain of the PWA is far more debilitating. It places the individual under greater stress at, ironically enough, the precise time when an already faltering immune system can least afford it. This untimely experience of stress only quickens his or her physical demise.

The process of “social death” unfolds early in the terminal process as the PWA withdraws and becomes emotionally detached from others and material possessions. In many instances the social stigma of the disease that used to be called “the gay plague” produces the withdrawal response in anticipation of the feared social rejection and judgment.

For many PWAs the public disclosure of their condition also makes known one’s sexual preference and lifestyle, compounding the stress and grief. An individual’s struggle for physical well-being is often complicated and undermined by the fear of social rejection and judgment leading to social withdrawal, depression and resignation.

The PWA’s dilemma is further intensified by a spiritual

crisis, often motivated by feelings of guilt and personal blame because of AIDS’s association with a socially undesirable and less-sanctioned lifestyle. In spite of the fact that many heterosexuals have become victims of the disease, those victims and their families often deny and resist labeling the illness for what it is. In many instances families identify the cause of death as cancer—or anything other than AIDS—in an attempt to avoid social stigmatization. These understandable concerns add an additional burden to families, loved ones and patients who mourn. Quite often, insensitivity to the concerns of the patient and family add an additional burden of stress for families mourning and attempting to cope.

**A** number of issues are important to consider in assisting others through the stress placed on one’s belief and spiritual system in times of mourning. A strong support system is primary. Friends and relatives should be available and supportive of PWAs from the time of diagnosis through the subsequent terminal phase that often follows. Moreover, the support system should be available and functional beyond the funeral and burial. The reality of the nature of one’s loss sometimes becomes most clear when the funeral is over and the support of others is no longer present. Ironically enough, this is also the time most people begin to appreciate and more fully understand the varied implications of their loss.

Many experts on bereavement point out that Western societies have relatively short periods of mourning and provide less support for those who are bereaved. While we are expected to resume work and social relationships shortly after the funeral is over, research indicates that the actual mourning period ranges from 12 to 24 months. Some people, of course, may recover quicker, but others take longer. The

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#### Things to remember about grieving:

- Grieving is a natural and normal response to loss.
- The more significant or special the personal relationship, the more intensely we grieve.
- The amount of time for grieving may vary considerably. Some people take more time. Some take less.
- Grieving is stressful and can erode our physical and emotional well being.
- People who grieve need a support system long after the diagnosis and/or funeral.
- Recovery is slow and takes time. It happens one day at a time.
- "Bereavement burnout" occurs when the individual's capacity to cope and recover is taxed by too many losses that occur too rapidly.

more significant the relationship, the more we grieve and the longer it takes.

**T**he unique aspects of the AIDS epidemic have also produced the phenomena of "bereavement burnout," particularly among members of the gay community. AIDS has often stricken several members of a community within short intervals—where those mourning a loss are not given the luxury of completing the normal bereavement process for personal recovery before other deaths occur and compound the situation. The compounded grief experiences and loss of personal security and safety often leads to a rather unique type of bereavement burnout characterized by feelings of numbness, an inability to emote or express one's feeling of emotional loss by pessimism, cynicism, and in some instances, fatalism

and insecurity.

The feelings of fatalism often suggest a sense of personal resignation and cynicism, leading to behaviors that reflect socially irresponsible behavior with self-destructive overtones (e.g., loose sexual conduct, alcohol and substance abuse, eating disorders, high-risk behavior, etc.). There is an equally likely opposite reaction of social withdrawal by others who feel insecure, becoming obsessively compulsive in personal hygiene and personal well-being (e.g., sexual celibacy, radical changes in personal health habits and eating preferences, excessive exercise and physical fitness, weight consciousness, and fear of illness, etc.). Feelings of depression are also characteristic of this stage as well as anxiety and restlessness, as personal recovery progresses.

The intensity of this phase of the bereavement burnout process lessens in intensity as mourners normalize. The individual's progress toward a normal recovery often depends upon his or her continued experiences of other losses. To the extent that the losses are less frequent, the tendency for the intensity of bereavement burnout also decreases and personal recovery increases. As a person recovers, the proclivity for obsessive-compulsive behaviors such as fatalism (self-destructiveness) and insecurity (the Neurotic Worry-well) tend to decrease in intensity.

We do recover, but we do so one day at a time. We never "get over" a loss, instead we simply learn to accept it and the associated challenges for personal growth and personal recovery. We do so one day at a time.

*Ron Keith holds a doctorate in psychology. He is president of a consulting company, facilitates grief recovery groups and is a consultant to the Office of the Coroner of Los Angeles County. He recently participated in the Seventh International Conference on Death and Bereavement.*

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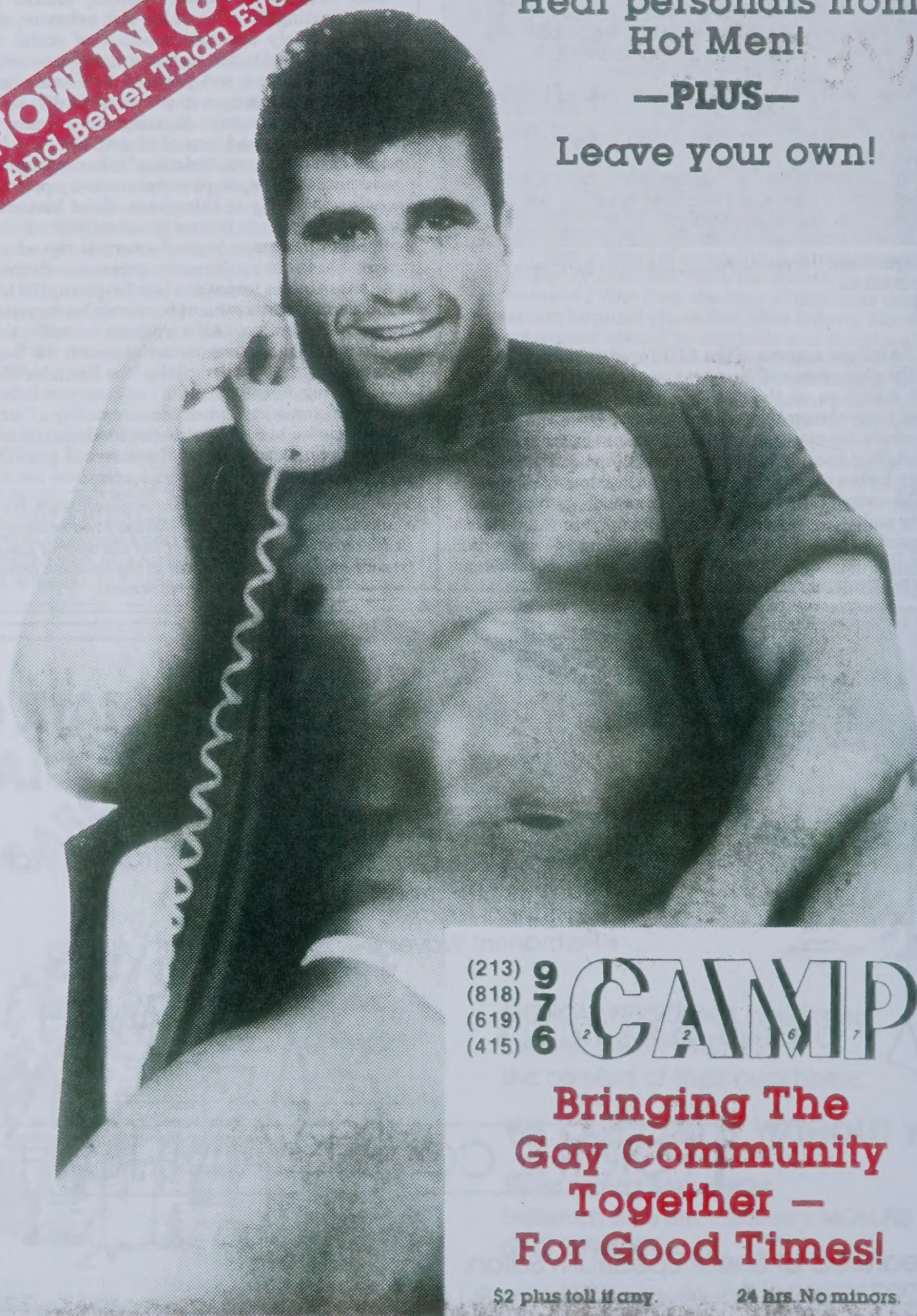


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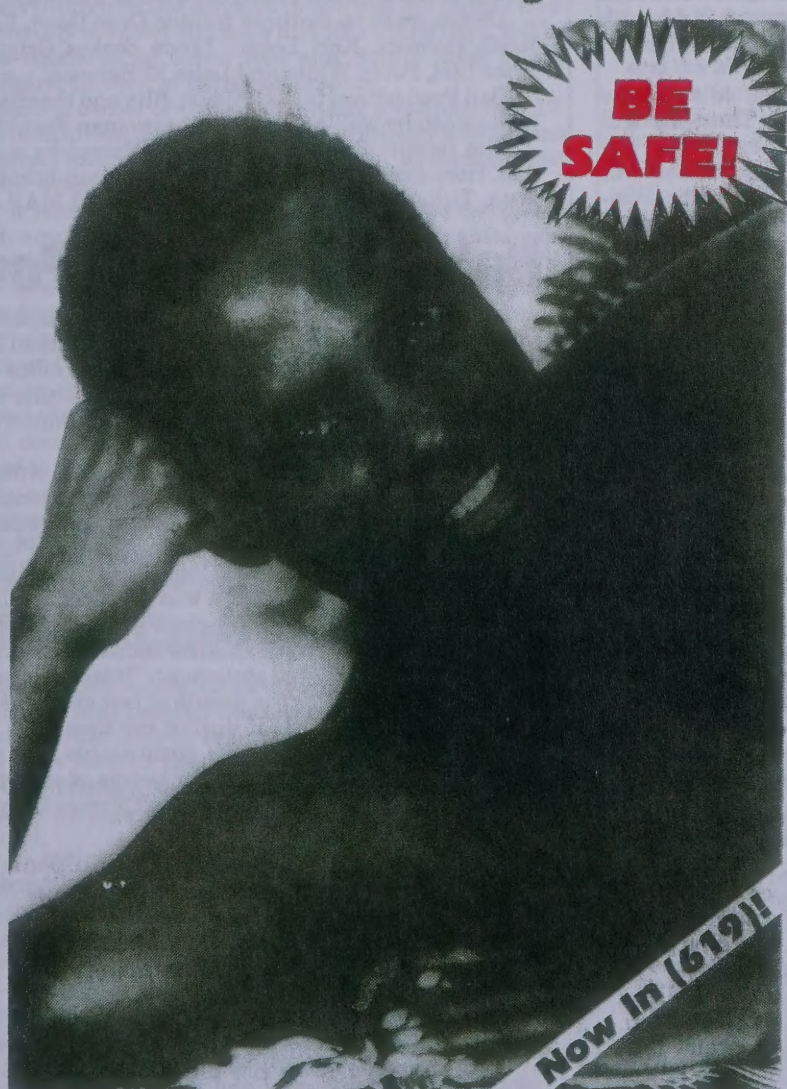


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# BLK COMMUNITY NEWS

## Non-Violent Civil Action Slated for Fed Building

LOS ANGELES—Rev. Carl Bean, pastor of the Unity Fellowship Church, and Gil Gerald, executive director of the Minority AIDS Project, have joined with other prominent individuals pledging their support and enthusiasm for the Oct. 6 non-violent demonstration and civil disobedience action at the Federal Building in Westwood.

The action, staged to throw light on the need for better federal AIDS programs, is being sponsored by ACT-UP/LA, ACT-UP/Long Beach and the Orange County Visibility League. The groups are predicting that at least 100 of their members will risk arrest and additional hundreds will be on hand to show their support.

The non-violent demonstration will demand a speed up in the development and release of AIDS treatments, a coherent national AIDS policy that treats the crisis as the health emergency it is, an end to HIV-related discrimination in immigration, and quality health care for all.

The event will coincide with the final unfolding of the NAMES Project Quilt in Washington, D.C. The rally will begin at 6 a.m. on Oct. 6 and, according to organizers, will shut down the Federal Building. The peaceful action will symbolize the community's determination not to allow business as usual while men, women, and babies are dying of AIDS.

In addition to Rev. Bean and Gerald, others who have indicated their willingness to be arrested to show their determination to secure better AIDS policies, according to ACT-UP, are Bob Craig, publisher of *Frontiers*; Jim Corte, interim executive director of Being Alive; Morris Kight, long-time gay activist; Tim Miller, artist; Torie Osborn, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center; Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC); Dee Simpson, director of MCC's AIDS Ministry; Daniel Warner, executive director of Shanti; and Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, pastor of MCC.

Two civil disobedience training sessions have been scheduled for those planning to be arrested. The Los Angeles session will occur at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at 1010 Kings Rd., #216. An Orange County session will be held Sunday, Oct. 1, at the Center, 12832 Garden Grove Blvd., #A, Garden Grove. For more information call ACT-UP/LA at 213-668-2357 or 213-876-8766.

## Andrea Welsing Heads MAP Education Section

LOS ANGELES—Andrea Welsing, former director of AIDS education and prevention at Valley Community Clinic in North Hollywood, has been hired as the new director of education at the Minority AIDS Project.

Welsing, a 1983 Berkeley graduate who also holds a master of public health degree from UCLA, will head an expanding AIDS education and prevention program. Currently, the department is funded to target black and Latino homosexual men, black and Latina heterosexual and bisexual women with multiple sex partners, high-risk minority youth, black congregations, and black choir and gospel groups.

## Fashion Designers Hold Benefit for AIDS Project

LOS ANGELES—The designs of renowned African-American fashion designers will be on display for "Great Black Designers," a benefit sponsored by the Hollywood chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in association with Bell Productions Nov. 19 at the Hollywood Palladium.

Proceeds from the gala event, which includes a reception and show, will go to the Minority AIDS Project (MAP), the Cal-PAC Scholarship and the American Philanthropy Association's Shelter for the Homeless.

"This promises to be an important annual event," said Gil Gerald, executive director of the Minority AIDS Project. "It is significant that black designers are being showcased. In fact, it probably hasn't been done quite this way before."

Designers to be featured include Drop Dead, Kevin Hall, Keith Holman, Karl Logan, Linda Stokes Originals, The Price List, Perry White and Laila El Bannan.

Bell Productions is a television, film and theatrical events firm owned by well-known businesswoman Frankie M. Bell.

The reception begins at 6 p.m. followed by a show at 8 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a non-host bar will be open. Tickets are \$100 and are available at MAP.

## Bottini Exits Task Force

LOS ANGELES—Ivy Bottini, one of the founders, first co-chair and current co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force, has decided to vacate her office and leave the group. The long-time activist says she wants to concentrate on activities related to the Stonewall Democratic Club, of which she is president.

Bottini has been embroiled in controversy since April 6, 1989, when all persons of color and minority-oriented organizations represented on the Task Force were expelled from membership by presiding chairman Marshal Phillips. Immediately afterward, Bottini accepted re-election as co-chair.

"It is my sincere hope that a woman of color will step forward to become Task Force co-chair and contribute a fresh perspective to community and law enforcement problems," said Bottini in a prepared statement. "It is also my hope that we can leave behind us the events of last spring. As for myself, I wish to state that if during my time with the Task Force these last several months, some people have perceived me as not sensitive to the need for people of color to be part of the current leadership of the Task Force, I say to them that was never my intent."

"I fought long and hard for the formation of the Task Force almost ten years ago, I also fought long and hard for gender-parity in leadership, not only for the task force but for most of the other organizations in our community. It was for that principle that I accepted the interim co-chair of the Task Force."

She concluded, "As I leave an organization which has long fought for equal treatment under the law for gays and lesbians, it is my sincere hope that we can unite, sharing resources of our diversity and the richness of our diverse cultures, in bringing safety and understanding and respect between the police and our gay and lesbian community. To not work together means we all lose."



# ACT-UP Hits Racism in Chicago Bars; Protests 'Carding', Closure of Popular Black Club LaRay

By Rex Wockner

CHICAGO—Utilizing a tactic not previously seen outside of New York City, Chicago's ACT-UP chapter directed its anger at the gay community Aug. 19 with a Saturday night anti-racism demonstration on Halsted St.

Activists charged that some of the 15 gay bars on the Halsted strip periodically require several pieces of identification bearing photos from blacks, but rarely "card" whites and those of other races. A few members of Black and White Men Together/Chicago joined the protest.

The demonstration was precipitated by the recent closure

## Williams, Thais Wed in Formal Church Service

LOS ANGELES—Nearly 400 well wishers packed the first Unitarian Church in Los Angeles to witness the formal wedding ceremony of Jewel Williams and Rue Thais Sept. 2. The rite was officiated by Revs. Ron and Sandy Scott of the United Spirit Church of Religious Science.

Williams is owner of Catch One Disco, a well-known, 17-year-old institution in the Los Angeles black gay and lesbian community. Thais is founder of Rue's House, a residence just opened for women and children with AIDS.

After a year-long whirlwind romance, the two decided to wed and, according to a release, "make a positive statement about lesbian love." The couple was stunningly dressed, Williams in a white lace pants suit and Thais in a white lace wedding dress with open, beaded back.

Entertainment was provided by the musical group, Light, to cheers and applause, and soloist B.J. Crosby.

A Roman-theme reception held at Catch One immediately followed the wedding. Two "gladiators" greeted visitors at the front door. Guests ate and drank amid Roman columns draped with lengths of white fabric while soft music was played by a live harpist.

The couple honeymooned in the South Pacific.

## Forum Selects Atlanta as 1990 Conference Site

LOS ANGELES—Atlanta has been selected as the site for the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's annual national conference. This is the group's third conference; the first two were held in Los Angeles. With the theme, "Celebrating Our History, Creating Our Future," the assembly will be held February 16-19, 1990, at Atlanta's Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Host organization for the conference will be the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance.

"We're particularly pleased at the prospect of working with ALGA and the other gay and lesbian organizations in Atlanta," said Phill Wilson, chair of the Leadership Forum.

Other scheduled events for the weekend include an all-day health institute that will focus on AIDS, women's health issues and substance abuse.

"We're very excited about this year's conference," Wilson continued. "It's going to be better than either of the previous conferences. I think changing the AIDS institute into a health institute will allow us to deal with some of the other issues that impact our lives."

of Club LaRay—the only bar on the strip that catered primarily to African-Americans. LaRay was shut down for alleged drug trafficking, but activists say white, pro-gay 44th Ward Alderman Bernie Hansen, neighborhood residents and others really wanted to stop blacks from partying in the neighborhood.

"The bottom line here is racism," said activist Rick Garcia. "When LaRay used to be Trianon [a predominantly white bar at the same location], honey, this place was drug heaven—and nobody said a word. I remember when Hansen's office was right across the street and he could overlook the place. I'm surprised he didn't get high just from walking by. But now that it's colored people, it's a big major problem."

Carrying signs reading, "This is not Bridgeport" [a predominantly white neighborhood on the South Side that is home to Mayor Richard Daley] and "Desegregate Lakeview," the 70 activists blocked traffic in the northbound lanes of Halsted as they marched from Belmont to Cornelia—the stretch with the highest concentration of bars.

At the central gay intersection of Halsted and Roscoe, they paused outside the popular bars, Sidecrack, Roscoe's and the Men's Room, to demand that gay bars "card everyone or no one." There have been no reported incidents at those three bars.

Specific allegations came two blocks later outside the video bar and dance club, Christopher Street. Using a portable PA system, activists charged that the bar limits the number of blacks who can be inside at any given time and demands multiple IDs of African-Americans who try to enter alone or in all-black groups.

A bartender quickly closed the blinds on the bar's floor-to-ceiling windows, and protestors were met on the sidewalk by five employees and a bouncer. After a lengthy, often heated, conversation, Christopher Street manager Ben Pohn told reporters that he was completely baffled.

"There is no truth whatsoever to the allegations...of quotas and that sort of thing," Pohn said. "We are here for the whole community. We even get straight people."

Across the street, however, at Rick's Retreat, black men observing the protest said they, too, had been carded at Christopher Street.

Activists voted not to enter the bar just as four police cruisers rolled up. Officers herded the demonstrators onto the sidewalk and the protest fizzled out after one more trip down and back up the strip.

Noticeably excluded from the activist attack was Little Jim's, across the street from Christopher Street. It is probably the most successfully integrated bar on the Halsted strip.

The following afternoon, Alderman Hansen denied that anti-black sentiment played any role in the closing of Club LaRay and called the charges that he is racist "absolutely ridiculous."

"LaRay violated state, federal and city law and they had their day in court—with an appeal—and they lost," Hansen said. "In no way, shape or form did discrimination ever enter into the picture."

"Cocaine was found in a drawer," Hansen continued. "There were violations of prostitution laws—numerous incidents where people were cut with a knife or broken bottles. It's all in the police reports and the court documents."

Hansen denied that similar problems existed at the former Trianon club and pointed out that neighborhood residents and city officials are also up-in-arms about the Phoenix, a non-gay, mostly white bar on Broadway.



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## Minority AIDS Project Slates Teenage Raffle

LOS ANGELES—The Minority AIDS Project has announced the kickoff of its Winner's Circle Drawing, a raffle targeted to minority youth in South Central Los Angeles ages 13 to 18. Participants become eligible to win by correctly answering eight of ten questions on the entry form. Entries must be received no later than Dec. 6, 1989.

Two of the ten true or false questions are: "Only gay people get AIDS" and "You can get AIDS by touching someone who has it."

Prizes to be given away include an IBM-compatible computer, two 10-speed bikes, color television, stereo, microwave oven, Nintendo game, camera, radio, clothing, watches, albums, tapes, calculators, tote bags, dinner for two, plus a savings account and gift certificates.

The drawing will take place Dec. 9 at noon in the Tom Bradley Court of the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza.

"Our goal is to reach over 4,000 youth in South Central Los Angeles with the message that they can get AIDS as easily as adults," said L. Paul Davis, the project's director.

The answers to the questions are contained in an AIDS-related rap song, called "AIDS Rap Song," written by Frankie Lennor. The lyrics to the song are provided to all entrants.

Prizes for the raffle were donated by A-1 Pleating; Africana Imports, Inc.; Angelus Funeral Home; Annex Club; Black Employee's Association; Blk Publishing Company; Boston Stores; Bunkhouse; Caper Room; Catch One Disco; Chaz Dot Design; D&A Pit Bar-B-Q; 5280 Hair; Gene's T.V.; Horizon; KACE; KGFJ; Leather Goods and Accessories; Marla's Memory Lane; May Company, Baldwin Hills; David Nathan; New Life Gospel Records; On Top Productions; PrintMasters/Wilshire; Sears Roebuck/Baldwin Hills; Step One Bookstore; Sureway Rexall Drug Co.; Unity Savings; Vennsian; and Wherehouse Records.

"We are glad to have broad community support of businesses and are hoping to make youth outreach an ongoing service of the project," said Gil Gerald, executive director of the Minority AIDS Project.

"We have also hired five teen facilitators to go out to shopping malls on the weekends to sign-up youth for the raffle and answer questions that young people may have about AIDS," Davis added.

The Winner's Circle Raffle was funded, in part, by a \$50,000 grant from the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

## Parkinson Shows Works

WASHINGTON—D.C. author and filmmaker Michell Parkinson was in Baltimore recently reading a selection of her poetry. Sponsored by New Breezes, a local cultural arts organization devoted to minority artists, the event was held at Maryland Art Place.

The event also marked the Baltimore premiere of *Storme*, a documentary about the first integrated female impersonation show and its cross-dressed woman emcee. The film and reading were followed by a reception.

## Gents Concerned Elect

LOS ANGELES—Rodney Carter and Billy Miller were re-elected president and treasurer, respectively, at a Gentlemen Concerned election meeting held Sept. 17. It was Carter's fourth term to head the organization. James Mays was selected for the new post of Compliance Officer.

## Gentlemen Concerned to Be Feted at Catch One

LOS ANGELES—Gentlemen Concerned, the organization that has raised over \$70,000 to help support Dignity House and the Minority AIDS Project, will itself be the recipient of accolades at "A Salute to Gentlemen Concerned" sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project Oct. 8, 3-7 p.m. The event will be held at the Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles.

"We are very pleased to come together to pay tribute to this organization and its commitment to our community," said L. Paul Davis, one of the coordinators of the event.

Gentlemen Concerned was founded in March 1986 in response to the need for housing of homeless persons affected by AIDS. The \$16,000 proceeds from their first fundraiser, held at a private home, was used to close escrow on the home that has come to be known as Dignity House.

Repeating its solicitation on an annual basis, the group has raised an additional \$55,000 for ongoing support of the residence.

Over 500 people are expected to attend the "Salute" which will include a complimentary buffet, entertainment and dancing. Attire is dressy and colors are black and white. There is no cover charge. A souvenir program is being produced and will be distributed at the event.

In addition to its efforts on behalf of the Minority AIDS Project, Gentlemen Concerned raised funds to sponsor scholarships for PWAs represented at the 1989 AIDS Institute of the second annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference.

## BLK VEIL

### LINDA S. JACKSON

Linda ("Cookie") S. Jackson was born June 18, 1950, to Edward W. Jackson and Dawn E. Carter. In 1988, she became a Christian and joined Unity Fellowship Church. She leaves to mourn a son, Antoine Jackson; grandparents, Winston and Florence Jackson; a stepmother, Arti Nell; and three brothers and six sisters.

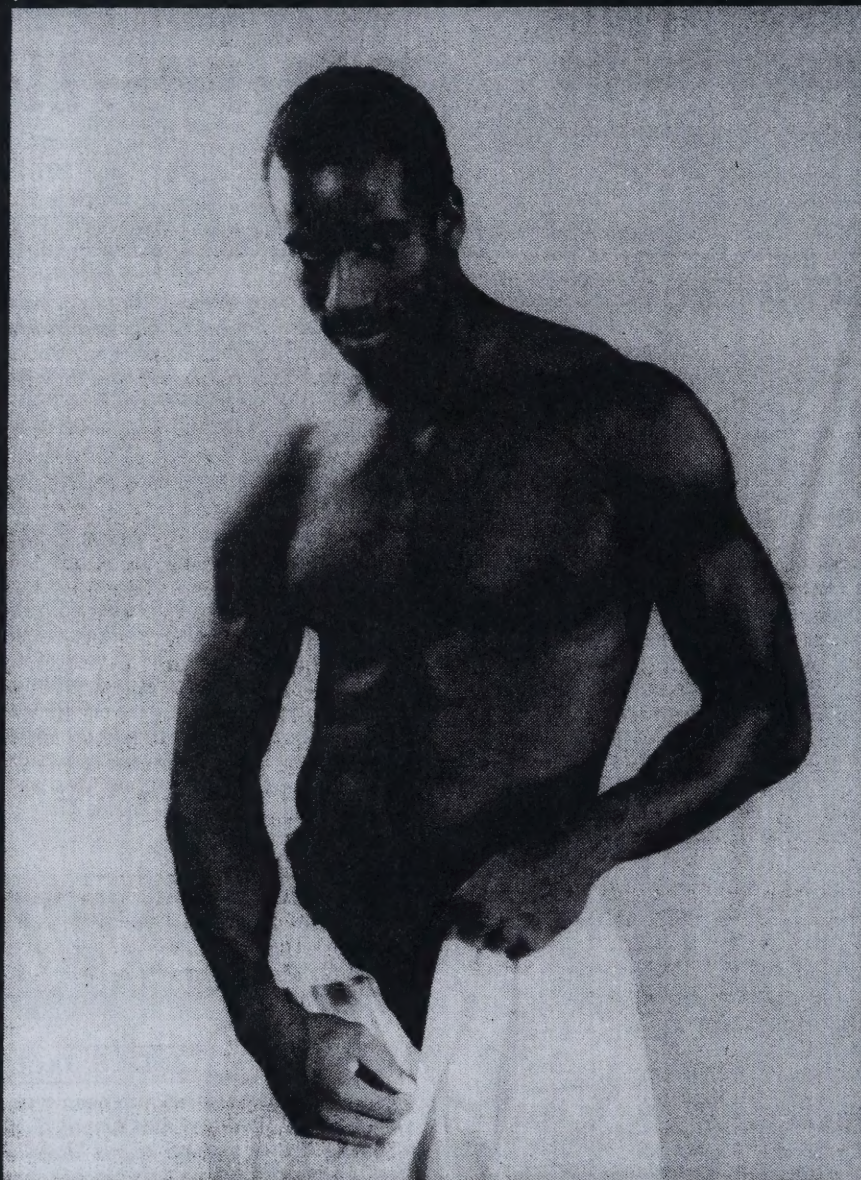
### DUDLEY ELIX JONES

Dudley Elix Jones, born in San Francisco, Calif., May 31, 1954 died of complications from AIDS, Sept. 12, 1989. Jones moved to Los Angeles in 1980. He attended Balboa High School and held an A.A. degree in theater and dance. He also studied music composition and voice at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Jones appeared in several musicals, and was employed by Amtrak as well as Cedars Sinai. He leaves his mother, Lillian, and other relatives and friends.

### HUEY P. NEWTON

Huey P. Newton, 47, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, was murdered Sept. 22, 1989, in Oakland, Calif., reportedly by admitted drug dealer trying to establish himself in a notorious prison-based gang. In 1970, Newton reportedly made several gay-supportive statements, but over the years, distanced himself from those remarks. He said gay people "might be the most oppressed people in the society... Maybe a homosexual could be the most revolutionary..."





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# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

The night that former football star **Jim Brown** appeared on the **Arsenio Hall Show** is one the host won't soon forget. Talk about skeletons. Talk about closets. On an earlier show, it seems, **Arsenio** had referred to a news report about Jim throwing a woman out of a window of his house. Arsenio quipped that he was going to buy the house next door so that when Jim discards his women, all Arsenio has to do is catch them. Apparently, Jim didn't take too kindly to that because he used his most recent appearance to get his comeuppance. Jim reportedly told Arsenio that if he wanted to air rumors, he had heard that Arsenio was a "faggot." Now the term, "faggot" was beeped out, but we heard enough to swear that was the term used. Jim went on to repeat the rumor that Arsenio and **Eddie Murphy** were fighting over **Mike Tyson**. Arsenio, of course, was dumbfounded. He tried to fight back by saying that he had heard that Jim had turned **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** on to his first menage à trois. Jim then reprimanded Arsenio for his attack on **Spike Lee** during an earlier show. The two went back and forth until Arsenio called for a commercial. Jim objected, but the commercial came anyway. A very long commercial. After the break, Arsenio announced that time was up and the show was over. We only know what we heard on the tube. If anyone was there, in person. Well, we'd give *anything* (well, almost anything) to hear the tea...Guess what Hollywood production company had the best track record for hiring women and minorities in the 1982-1987 period? According to a report issued by the Writers Guild of America, it was **Johnny Carson Productions** with 13 percent of the company's staff minority... "I now pronounce you man and wife" became "I now pronounce you permanent partners" at the wedding of **Jewel Williams** and **Rue Thais** last month... We've heard **Al Von** referred to as "tacky" at times, but the girl certainly held her own as M.C. of the Wedding Event of the Year. Al, we didn't know you could talk like that... Dear friend of the couple's, **Gene Cornelius**, didn't make it to the wedding because his neck was in a brace. Wonder how *that* happened... Rue says that she and Jewel had a wonderful time on their honeymoon in the South Pacific. A few people picked up that they were lesbians and dished out a little prejudice. But that didn't dampen the newlyweds' spirits. Overall, the Pacific Isles were fabulous, Rue said... Milwaukee's Tri-Cable Tonight took a first place award at the Hometown USA Video Festival with show segments that included stories of **Black and White Men Together** and a memorial to disco diva **Sylvester**. The monthly show is produced by **Mark Behar** and **Bryce Clark**... Almost 8,000 packed the Marriott Marquis in New York to attend the 10th annual New Music Seminar, an industry trade show. **Spike Lee**, who doesn't have good things to say about **Arsenio Hall**, was there attending a workshop titled, "Africentricity: The Revolution Must Be Marketed," but left early to make an appearance on **Dona-hue**... Britain's premiere TV music show, **Top of the Pops**, had to run a **Bobby Brown** video instead of a live performance when the oft-unshirted some-say sex symbol stormed out of the studios after five hours of rehearsals because he was "bored of waiting around"... While some are pissed that more and more cream is coming into **Catch One's** coffee, some of the coffee beans themselves are jumping out of the pot. In an early evening event called "Gotta Have House," **Probe**, that bastian of white New York disco, is installing **Catch One** DJs behind its turntables. "Gotta Have House" runs from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. after which the **Probe** switches to

their traditional format... **Black Jacks** is a new porn flick from **Stallion Video**. It's supposed to be all-male, but has one (non-sexual) female part played by **Ebony Ayes**. It's also supposed to be all-black, but we'll bet one character is "passing." Anyway, it's about a baker trying to get rich off of sweet potato cookies and stars **Ty Jones**, **Gene Lamar**, **Gino Colbert**, **Martin Vale** and **Xavier Johnson**. It also stars the ubiquitous **Randy Cochran**. Guess he wants to make all the money he can before his increasing pudginess takes its toll on video sales... **Black Jack**, the j/o group, says their parties will continue. But we predict the group is dead... **Wade** is working extra hard at getting his body together. Who for? Could it be that he and **Keith** are talking about getting back together? And will it be for real this time?... **Bruce Johnson** of the Whore-izon is leaving L.A.—again! He's returning to Phoenix, where apparently there is more to the desert than we'll ever know... **Knott's Berry Farm's** Gay Night of Sept. 22 was packed. **Unity Fellowship Church** members were there in droves... And speaking of the church, we hear that **Rev. Carl Bean** is finally taking driving lessons. Yep! At age 45. And who, pray tell, is providing the instruction? **Sears!**... From Washington, D.C., we hear that **Mayor Marion Berry** is having more problems. (Y'all remember his problems in the hotel earlier this year, right?) This time, he and wife were booed when they showed up at the Adam-Morgan's Day street festival. The crowd shouted things that weren't very nice and the Hizzoner, the Mayor, gave them the finger. He apologized later on TV... Also from D.C., we hear that the newly elected **Mr. Clubhouse**, better known as **Lover Boy**, pulled it out during a performance at the club's strip tease show—all 10 inches plus. Now we know how he won the contest... The **Clubhouse**, as you might remember, was almost forced to close its doors at the beginning of the year because of financial problems, but we understand the club has been saved for the moment. Attendance is increasing and the club has decided to open on Wednesday nights as well... New club in New York that's reported to be great: the **Sound Factory**... Watch for the new show, **In Living Color** on Fox television. We caught a preview with the **Wayans** brothers, **Keenen** and **Damon**, doing a **Siskel and Ebert** routine as black queens. A riot... Love and kisses.



"It says 'condom.' Do these taste anything like caramels?"



# BLK LIST

If you want your organization Blk Listed, drop a note to Ron Parker at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, California 90083-0912. You may also send information by fax: 213-410-9250. Deadline for the October issue is September 15, 1989. The Blk List is designed for events that occur on a regular schedule. One-time events appear on the Blk Board.

- \*Somewhat black
- \*\*Significantly black
- \*\*\*Mostly black
- \*\*\*\*All black
- †Mixed gay and straight

## INTERNATIONAL

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Black HIV/AIDS Network**, London, England. ☎ 01-484-8700, ext. 315.  
**Black Lesbian and Gay Centre**, Tottenham Town Hall, Annexe B, Town Hall Approach Rd., London N15 4RX, England. ☎ 01-885-3543.  
**Black Lesbian and Gay Workers' Support Group**, Southbank House, Black Prince Rd., Room 203, London, England SE1 7SJ. ☎ 01-587-1636.  
**Camden Black Lesbian Group**, 54-56 Phoenix Rd., London, NW1, England. ☎ 01-385-5405.  
**Lesbian and Gay Black Group**, 15A Ostade Rd., Brixton Hill, London SW2 2AY, England.  
**Light Skinned & Mixed Race Black Lesbian Group**, London, England. ☎ 01-885-3543.  
**Peckham Black Lesbian Group**, London, England. ☎ 01-358-1486.  
**Zami**, Box 7289, Sta. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X9, Canada.

## EASTERN UNITED STATES

### BARS AND BATHS

**Allegro\***, 1101 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD, 301-837-3906. Weekdays 4-7 p.m. Happy hour.  
**Allegro II\*\***, 2056 Sansom St., Philadelphia, PA 19103, 215-577-9318.  
**Andre's\***, 2321 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10027.  
**Apartment\***, 343 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38103, 901-525-9491.  
**Bachelor's Mill\*\*\***, 500 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-1931.  
**Back Door Pub\*\*\***, 801 E St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-546-5979.  
**Blues\***, 264 W. 43rd St., New York 10036, 212-221-9152.  
**Brass Rail\*\*\***, 811 - 13th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202-628-6496.  
**Buddy's\***, 751 Washington Ave., Newark, NJ 07109, 201-751-0527.  
**Club Gemini\***, 443 E. Stone Ave., Greenville, SC 29601, 803-235-8175.  
**Clubhouse\*\*\***, 1296 Upshur St., N.W., Washington, DC 20011, 202-882-7616.  
**Delta Elite\*\*\***, 3734 - 10th St., N.E., Washington, DC 20017, 202-832-9839.  
**Family Affair\***, 875 Vance Ave., Memphis, TN 38126, 901-527-0672.  
**First Choice\***, 533 Ferry St., Newark, NJ 07105, 201-465-1944.  
**Gallery\***, 1735 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD, 301-539-6965.  
**Hatfield's\***, 126-10 Queens Blvd., Queens, NY, 718-261-8484.  
**Hippo\***, 1 W. Eager St., Baltimore, MD, 301-576-0018. Thursdays-Sundays 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Dancing. Blackest on Thursday.  
**Jeff's Place\*\*\***, 610 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD, 301-659-7540. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour.  
**Kellers\*\*\***, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014, 212-243-1907.  
**The Last Stop\*\*\***, 812 W. Madison St., Baltimore, MD. Thursdays-Saturdays 1-6 a.m. After hours.  
**Mr. P's\***, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037, 202-293-1064.

**Mt. Morris Baths\*\*\***, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035, 212-534-9004. Bathhouse.  
**Nob Hill\***, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington, DC 20010, 202-797-1101.  
**Our Place\*\*\***, 608 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD.  
**Paradise Inn\*\*\***, 1302 Laurens St., Baltimore, MD, 301-728-9782.  
**Phase One\*\*\***, 525 - 8th St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-6831.  
**Rascals\***, 611 Hick St., Asbury Park, NJ 07712.  
**Smart Place\***, 922 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-627-8984.  
**Sportsman Bar\*\*\***, 412 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD, 301-727-9620.  
**Tikki's\*\*\***, 616 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD, 301-539-9002. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour. Women's bar.  
**Two Potato\*\***, 145 Christopher St., New York, NY 10014, 212-242-9304.  
**West Ninth Club Baths\***, 1293 W. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44113, 216-696-0595. Bathhouse.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**ADODI/Philadelphia**, Box 19132, Philadelphia, PA 19103.  
**Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.  
**BEBASHI**, 1528 Walnut St. #1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215-546-4140.  
**Black and White Men Together/Baltimore**, Box 22472, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-225-9386, 301-542-3317.  
**Black Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men**, 3835 Reisterstown Rd., Baltimore, MD 21218, 301-542-6218 (Goldie), 301-669-4192 (Irv).  
**Blacks United for Gay and Lesbian Equality (BUGLE)**, Box 13429, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-547-1829 (Brenda).  
**Gay Men of African Descent**, Box 2519, New York, NY 10185-0021, 718-802-0162. 2nd and 3rd Fridays 8-11 p.m.  
**National Minority AIDS Council**, 714 G St., S.E., Washington, DC 20003, 202-544-1076.  
**Salsa Soul Sisters**, Box 1119, New York, NY 10009, 212-384-2668. Thursdays 8-10:30 p.m.

## CENTRAL UNITED STATES

### BARS AND BATHS

**Armory\***, 836 Juniper, Atlanta, GA 30309, 404-881-9280.  
**Backstage\***, 17630 Woodward N., Detroit, MI, 313-869-3988.  
**Backstreet\***, 15606 Joy Rd., Detroit, MI, 313-272-8959.  
**Bill's Disco and Show Bar\***, 200 W. Amite, Jackson, MS 39201, 601-969-9765.  
**Club Chicago\***, 609 N. La Salle St., Chicago, IL 60610.  
**The Copa\***, 565 S. Saginaw, Flint, MI, 313-235-2500.  
**The Cove\***, 586 Worchester, Atlanta, GA, 404-875-2477.  
**Crew\***, 309 W. Market St., San Antonio, TX, 512-223-0333.  
**The Crossing\***, 611 Red River, Austin, TX, 512-476-3611.  
**Deep Purple\***, 1305 First Ave., Columbus, GA 31901.  
**411 Club\*\*\*†**, 411 E. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-684-9387. Days straight, nights gay.  
**Gina's\***, 219 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212.  
**Golden Lantern\*\***, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans, LA 70116.  
**Jeffrey Pub\*\*\***, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, IL 60649, 312-363-8555.  
**Le Bistro\***, 800 Bourbon St., New Orleans, LA 70116.  
**Loretta's\***, 708 Spring St., Atlanta, GA, 404-874-8125.  
**Martin's Den\*\*\***, 5550 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60621, 312-363-9470.  
**Menjos\***, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI, 313-863-3934.  
**Mint\***, 422 W. State St., Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-273-7660.  
**Molly & Oscar's\***, 405 Tower Ave., Superior, WI 54836.  
**Nites II\***, 212 N. Vandeventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-3123.  
**Paper Moon\***, 1430 N. Main, San Antonio, TX, 512-225-7330.  
**Pear Garden\***, 111 Luckie St., Atlanta, GA, 404-659-4055.  
**Railroad Crossing\***, 6640 E. 8 Mile, Detroit, MI, 313-891-1020.  
**Rialto\*\*\***, 14 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60604, 312-427-9893.  
**Studio 13\*\*\***, 1318 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77006, 713-521-



9030.

**Swingtime\***, 2820 Cumming, Omaha, NE 68131.

**Tina's RT1\***, 1843 N. 20th, Milwaukee, WI 53205, 414-933-7577.

**Todd's\***, 8139 E. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI, 313-366-TODD.

**Willie's Lounge\***, 8105 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, IL 60619.

**Zebra\***, 887 Peachtree St., N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Ebony Connection**, 227 Congress St. #125, Austin, TX 78767, 512-478-DRUM.

**IRUWA**, Box 19146, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

**National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays**, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48219, 313-537-0484.

## WESTERN UNITED STATES

### BARS AND BATHS

**Annex\*\***, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-671-7323.  
**Basgo's\***, 3909 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-664-1929.  
**Bella Napoli\*\*\***, 2280 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612, 415-893-5552.

**Bench & Bar\***, 120 - 11th St., Oakland, CA 94607, 415-444-2266.  
**Blue and Gold\*\***, 136 Turk St., San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-928-9651.

**Cabel's Reef\*\***, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94612, 415-451-3777.

**Caper Room\*\*\***, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood, CA 90301, 213-677-0403. Mondays 10 p.m. Sir Marshall; Tuesdays 10:30 p.m. Male exotic dancers; Wednesdays 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Oldies But Goodies Night; Thursdays 9:30 p.m. Caper Connection show; Fridays 8-11 p.m. Free buffet; Sundays 8:30 p.m. Bid Whist Night.

**Catch One\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 8-9 p.m. Jock Strap Aerobics; Wednesdays 9 p.m. Men's Night; Thursdays 10 p.m. Lip sync.

**Cottage\*\*\*†**, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-935-5540.

**Cover Girl Club\*\*\*†**, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, 213-870-1595. Fridays Women's Night. (All other days, basically straight.)

**Eagle\***, 7864 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-654-3252.

**Eagle Creek Saloon\*\***, 1884 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94104, 415-863-3323.

**Foster's Club Penthouse\*\***, 9300 W. Jefferson Blvd. #3, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-837-5881.

**Griff's\***, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, 213-660-0889. Sundays 3-7 p.m. Beer bust.

**Horizon\*\***, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-737-9678. Monday-Saturday 6-9 p.m. Happy hour; Sundays and Wednesdays 10 p.m. The LaVerne Show; Tuesdays Wellfare Night; Thursdays Male exotic dancers.

**Jewel's Room\*\*\***, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-737-1159. Sundays 5-7 p.m. Live jazz; Sundays 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Live talent show; Tuesdays 10 p.m. Showcase talent; Fridays 2-9 p.m. Happy hour; Saturdays 1-9 p.m. Free BBQ.

**Midtowne Spa\*\***, 615 S. Kohler St., Los Angeles, CA 90021, 213-680-1838. Bathhouse. Tuesdays 8 a.m.-midnight Half price admission.

**Peacock Alley\*\***, 1271 University Ave., San Diego, CA 92103, 619-295-5696.

**Pendulum\*\***, 4146 - 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-863-4441.

**Rage\***, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069, 213-652-7055. Tuesdays Gong Show, and 10 p.m.-2 a.m. London Life; 3rd Wednesday Fashion Show.

**Steamworks\***, 2107 - 4th St., Berkeley, CA 94710, 415-845-8992. Bathhouse.

**Study\*\***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-464-9551. Weekdays 5-7 p.m. Happy hour.

**Taste\***, 2217 Welton St., Denver, CO 80205, 303-296-1741.

### RESTAURANTS

**Carriage Trade\***, 8225 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048, 213-655-6425.

**Casita del Campo\***, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-662-4255.

**Crest\***, 3725 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-660-3645.

**Images\***, 3938 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-665-7390.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Alcoholics Anonymous/Lesbian Group**, 168 Santa Barbara Plaza #201, Los Angeles, CA 90008, Saturdays 5 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 6 p.m.

**Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project**, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563, 213-206-5162. Free HIV testing, counseling, referrals, research studies and volunteer activities.

**Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum**, Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-666-5495. Saturdays noon. Planning meetings.

**Black Gay Men's Exchange**, 213-753-2313 or 213-221-6041.

**Black Gay Men's Rap Group**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-274-3398. 1st and 3rd Sundays 3-5 p.m.

**Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexus**, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894. 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9 p.m.

**Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles**, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716. Saturdays 7:15 p.m. Raps (Held at Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038); 2nd Sunday 4 p.m. HIV+ Support pot luck dinner (location varies); 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m. Steering committee meeting (location varies).

**Black and White Men Together/National Association**, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.

**Black and White Men Together/San Francisco**, 2269 Market St. #199, San Francisco, CA 94114.

**Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Black Lesbians and Gays for Health and Justice**, Box 341412, Los Angeles, CA 90034, 213-664-0234.

**Blacks Living with HIV Infection, ARC and AIDS**, 213-666-5493.

**Gentlemen Concerned**, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

**Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women**, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805. Mondays 7-9 p.m. Prevention support group for women of color; Wednesdays Women of color support group.

**Lesbians and Gays of African Descent**, Box 89174, San Diego, CA 92138, 619-294-6515.

**Makeda**, 1902 S. La Brea Ave. #129, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105. Mondays and Wednesdays 4 p.m. Makedacize exercise group; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays 5 p.m. Women's rap group; 4th Saturday 5 p.m. "Over 40" black women support group.

**Minority AIDS Project**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Mondays 6:30 p.m. Spanish-speaking support group; Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Aerobic class; Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. HIV+, ARC, and AIDS support group (Held at Midway Hospital, 4th Fl. Lounge, Olympic and San Vicente); 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 7 p.m. Life Beyond Bars; Thursdays 7 p.m. American Sign Language class; Fridays 1 p.m. Family members of AIDS patients support group.

**Regional Black Lesbians Conference Planning Committee**, 213-293-1754. Sundays 2:30-4:30 p.m. Black lesbians only (Held at Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd.).

**Unity Fellowship Church**, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949. Sundays 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11:30 a.m. Worship service; Thursdays 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal.

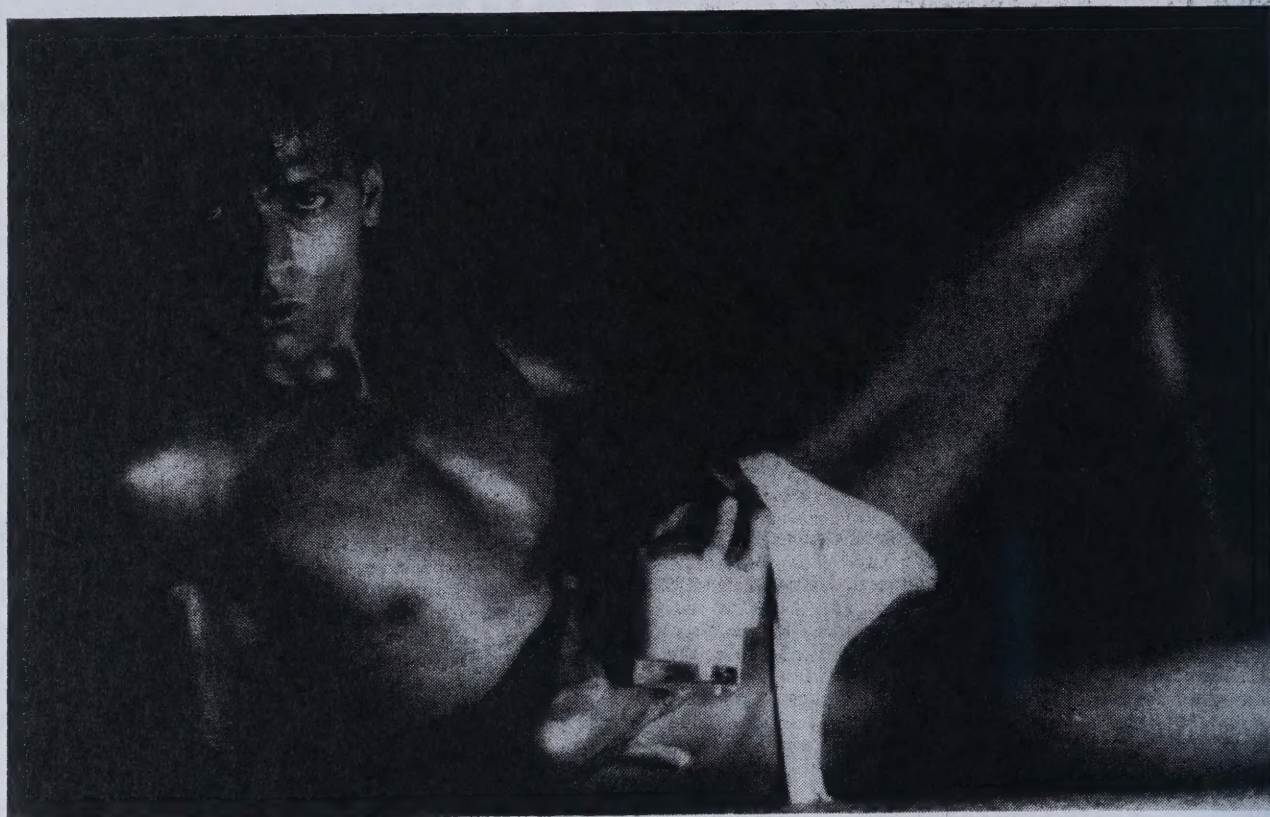
**Watts Health Foundation**, 4116 E. Compton Blvd., Bldg. B, Compton, CA 90221, 213-639-3068. Thursdays 7 p.m. Positive approach to wellness support group for PWAs or HIV+s (Held at Watts Health Medical Holistic Center, 7514 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90044).

**Womyn of Colors**, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205, Fridays 7-9:45 p.m.

**X-Calibre Social Club**, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

**Z and Z Productions**, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.





# Hot, Horny & Healthy!

## A Fun, Safer Sex Playshop

*Come See How Great Safer Sex Can Be...  
...In a Safe & Sexy Yet Non-Sexual Experience*

### October

### November

**1st Tuesday**

**3rd at 7:30 p.m.**  
Minority AIDS Project

**7th at 7:30 p.m.**  
Minority AIDS Project

**2nd Monday**

**9th at 7:00 p.m.**  
LA Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center

**13th at 7:00 p.m.**  
LA Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center

**3rd Thursday**

**19th at 8:00 p.m.**  
Catch One Disco - Roots Room

**23rd at 8:00 p.m.**  
Catch One Disco - Roots Room

**Information:**

**BWMT/LA: 213/666-5493**

**Locations:**

Catch One Disco  
4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles

Minority AIDS Project  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles

Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center - Rm. 203  
1213 N. Highland Ave., L.A.



# BLK MARKET

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Gay black male seeking general house work. Everything but windows. Smile. Good references. Honest, hard worker. Reasonable. \$30 up a day. Call anytime, day or night. 213-622-9635. Charles Thomas. (11)

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Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (11)

Case Manager-Client Services. Reports to the Executive Director of non-profit, AIDS-service organization. Assists in client intake, determination of eligibility for client services and on-going case management of clients. Knowledge of psychosocial theory and its relation to AIDS issues, interview techniques and writing skills required. Bilingual skills highly desirable. Master's degree preferable or combination of educational and work experience equivalent to. Salary range: \$26,000-29,000 annually, plus benefits. Send resume and references by Friday, October 20, 1989 to: Aid for AIDS, Inc., Attention: Executive Director, 8235 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 200, West Hollywood, CA 90048. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. (11)

Executive Assistant. To serve as staff support and office manager for large volunteer community-based organization. Office management experience and pleasant phone manner. Experience on IBM-compatibles preferred. Must be able to deal well under pressure! Send resume to: Search Committee, Box 461236, West Hollywood, CA 90046. (11)

Interviewers. Black C.A.R.E. (Community AIDS Research and Education) Project is looking to hire several men and women to conduct interviews with black gay and bisexual men. Other positions include persons certified to draw blood and an HIV counselor. All part-time with flexible schedules. Also full-time administrative assistant. Must have grant management, university and accounting experience. Dr. Vickie Mays, UCLA. 213-206-5159. (11)

News Writer. Must be accurate and willing to write "just the facts." Not looking for an investigative journalist, but someone to cover the routine but often interesting events in our community. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (11)

Nursing Clinical Coordinator/AIDS Hospice. Excellent salary and benefits for an experienced RN. LVN positions also available. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, L.A. 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (11)

Palm Springs Houseman. Older white man wants versatile houseman. Cook, gardener, driver, masseur, handyman. Live-in plus salary. Need references. Jack, Box 322, Suite 109, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046 (12)

Two Pastoral Care Associates, Cook, Assistant Housekeeper, needed at AIDS Hospice. Contact P. Gatto at Chris Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. An equal opportunity employer. (11)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Stept, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

## COMPUTER STUFF

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Songwriters. Songwriters. Singer/composer looking for album material. 213-739-3945. (12)

Black Lace, the first erotic magazine ever produced by and for African American lesbians, welcomes submissions of poetry, short stories, essays (political essays most welcome!), and hot fantasy letters reflecting your erotic interests/experiences. All materials considered. Expect Black Lace to be raunchy, hot

and tastefully done! Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced. None will be returned unless accompanied with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Unless otherwise indicated, all fantasy letters accepted for publication will be printed anonymously. Submissions should be addressed to Alycee Lane, Editor, Black Lace, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also accepted. Send with SASE to Revon Kyle Baneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Lease/buy option: Luxurious mid-Wilshire studio condo, furnished, mini-blinds, breakfast bar, AC, w/w carpet, patrolled garage. Available 9/15/89. \$500 month. Call Chuck 213-480-0380. (11)

Literate, GWM, ex-New Yorker, thirty-something, seeks roommate, any race, to share two-bedroom, grand piano-equipped Echo Park home. Not looking for a sex partner or even a "best friend," but an occasional intelligent conversation would be nice, as would an interest in keeping the house and yard in good order with being prodded. HIV status unimportant, but references are. Security and rent negotiable. Ted 213-250-1365. (11)

## FOR SALE

Miles of music: 25+ years of soul. Locate tunes you choose. 213-937-3190. (11)

AIDS is biological warfare. Call 213-977-0901. (14)

Hot Black Men—The East Coast's best black men are in photographs by Weems-Works, now available in erotic photosets or art prints. For sample and brochure, mail request stating age (over 21) and \$10 to David Weems, c/o Weems-Works, Box 22886, Baltimore, MD 21203. (TF)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Certified massage by white 24 year old. In-calls 24 hours. Late evenings best. Put yourself in my hands. Russ. 818-784-6929. (18)

Australian Rick, blond, blue, 6'2", 195



"We've been together for two years now. Isn't one of us supposed to be butch and the other fem?"



lbs., 40, offers hot massage, hot spa, warm conversation. Only \$40 in. 213-259-8485. (11)

Every inch is brought alive and relaxed. \$50 and travel if outside Hollywood area. Available 24 hours, Sundays and holidays. Handsome masseur who loves his work. Call me! 213-666-0673. (11)

### PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

WM, 45, seeks dominant BM for good times. Doug. 604-263-3991 (Vancouver). (TF)

### PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Tall, thin GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (13)

GWM ISO GBM 4 hot sex. 609-989-1260. (12)

Attractive, young BM, seeks lover. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (12)

Personable, GWM, 33, 5'5", 125 lbs., trim beard, blue eyes, would like to hear from versatile in-shape GBM under 45. Blk Mailbox #9. (11)

GWM, 55, slim, active life, gym-oriented, horseback riding, home life and more. Enjoy most sex. Seeking a younger dominant black man with similar tastes. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (11)

GBM, 30, seeks Hispanic/Latin male for friendship-lover. Write to Box 684083, Corona-A, NY 11368. (11)

### PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

Black male seeks attractive monogamous brother willing to relocate 512-926-3400. (11)

GWM wants relationship. Dennis Pitman #882430, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (11)

Slim WM seeks BMs. Box 4222, East Lansing, MI 48826. 517-484-6505. (13)

GWM, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., seeks GBM for friendship, correspondence and safe sex. Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (11)

GWM, professional; 37, 6'2", 180 lbs. would like to meet/respond with men of diverse cultural backgrounds. Romance, with affection, are important aspects that I would like to share. Write Rod, Box 8257, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. (11)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (11)

### PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

GBM, 30s, intelligent, good-looking, seeks same for companionship, movies,

travel, etc. Possible safe sex, possible relationship. Write, send photo. Box 5112, Playa del Rey, CA 90296. (11)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern guy, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino guy, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (11)

Las Vegas soon? When in town call tall, blond, friendly Kass for an excellent deep muscle massage. 702-382-5419. (11)

W. dominant Dad, top, handsome, 59, needs to be sucked toe-to-head, armpit-to-backside, P/P, Box 155, 8721 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (11)

Handsomeness GBM, well-built, 39, 190 lbs., 6 ft., seeks attractive well-built WM friend/relationship. Ph/ph to Occupant, 1818 - 6th #208, SD, CA 92101. (11)

Blow-job for in-shape black by attractive WM, 35, 415-338-1189. (13)

Hi. My name is George. I'm a hot and horny Italian. I have an extreme bubble butt that's very tight. I'm looking for a top GBM (that is serious about having fun and safe relationship) to bust it at my place in the San Gabriel Valley. Serious men only. Call 818-369-6350. No calls after 10 p.m. (11)

GWM, 39, masculine. Oral/older GBM. Mike. Box 178194, S.D. 92117. (13)

Asiatco callado y serio (52, 5'5", 110 lbs.) busca amigo delgado y duradero. Platicar y acariciar solamente. Chang, Box 76475, LA 90076. (12)

Handsome, muscular black man would like to meet imaginative men of all races for fun, fantasy and friendship. I am 32, 5'10", 170#, honest, with a sense of humor and imagination. Photo and phon to: M.D., Box 57192, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413. (12)

Commitment: Black male, 38, G/P seeks sincere Gr/A man, 40-55, with old-fashioned values. Like 1-to-1, homelife and nature. Any race. Mel 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (answering service) (15)

Tall blond hunk, seeks boyish-looking top. Don 213-281-6138. (12)

BM, BC wanted by sexy, slim, select, spectacular male. We service, savour blk cock. Photo, phone, letter. Box 12432, El Cajon, CA 92022. (12)

Free massage for fit smooth BM with big buns and small tight waist by WM, 36, professional, 173 lbs., safe, salt and pepper hair, blue eyes, moustache, BB swimmer. Mike 213-483-1517. (12)

Couple looking top GBM safe sex. 4370 W. Third St., Los Angeles 90020. (12)

Average BM, 40 years, 5'11", 145 lbs., beard, moustache, eclectic tastes, metaphysical, spiritual, wine, smoke, creative, artistic, ambitious, romantic, traveled, visionary, seeks WM with simi-

## Unity Fellowship Church A Church For All People

□ *Sunday Worship Service*  
*11:30 a.m.*

□ *All Persons HIV+, A.I.D.S. & ARC Are Welcome*

□ *A Non-Judgmental Ministry*

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**P a s t o r**

*5149 W. Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles,  
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GWM, 46, seeks GBM over 35, bored with working out, bars, dancing, but interested in talks, walks, travel, offbeat restaurants, classical/folk music, sports, for friendship, possible relationship. Write DN, Box 291993, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (12)

Looking for very muscular GBM for good times/possible relationship. Am 36, 6'2", 150 lbs. blonde, blue eyes, own home in Long Beach. Call John 213-426-2870. (11)

Hot New York Rican seeking butch Latinos and mix blacks with thick bitches. Willie. 213-657-2539. (12)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (11)

Black man wanted by slim, young, attractive GWM. 415-923-0278. (11)

GM, half-Japanese/half-white, seeks sincere GBM for friendship. 213-398-5161. (11)

Lincoln, Elton D.: Where are you? I'm worried. Call me. Get my # from 411, West Hollywood. Iggy. (11)

Commitment: B/M G/P seeks a sincere G/A man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1 and nature. M.T., Box 712071, Los Angeles 90071. (11)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send

SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, L.A., CA 90004. (11)

Husband's cute white ass for black dominant top. Him/us? Box 12432, El Cajon, CA 92022. (11)

Young, white/black male, little brother, under 24, wanted by hot black male, 31 yrs. I am 6'0", 180 lbs. with hot body, nice personality, lots of fun. Please send picture. Don't call. BLK Mailbox #11. (11)

Very attractive GBM, 22, 6'0", 170 lbs., relationship material, new to area, seeks under 33, good-looking GM, any race, drug free, safe sex, educated. BLK Mailbox #6. (11)

Tight body and hot, white butt wants black dudes with a least 9x6 who know how to work ass. 213-656-5371. (11)

Write attractive GWM: Boke, 2110 Ninth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. (11)

Muscular short, good-looking blond, hazel, excellent body/mind. Look 36, very affectionate, versatile, moderately hairy, hot bottom, educated, spiritual, non-smoker. Seeks attractive thin-to-athletic GBM top. Letters with photos get early response. Jim, 11288 Ventura Blvd. #327, North Hollywood, CA 91604. (11)

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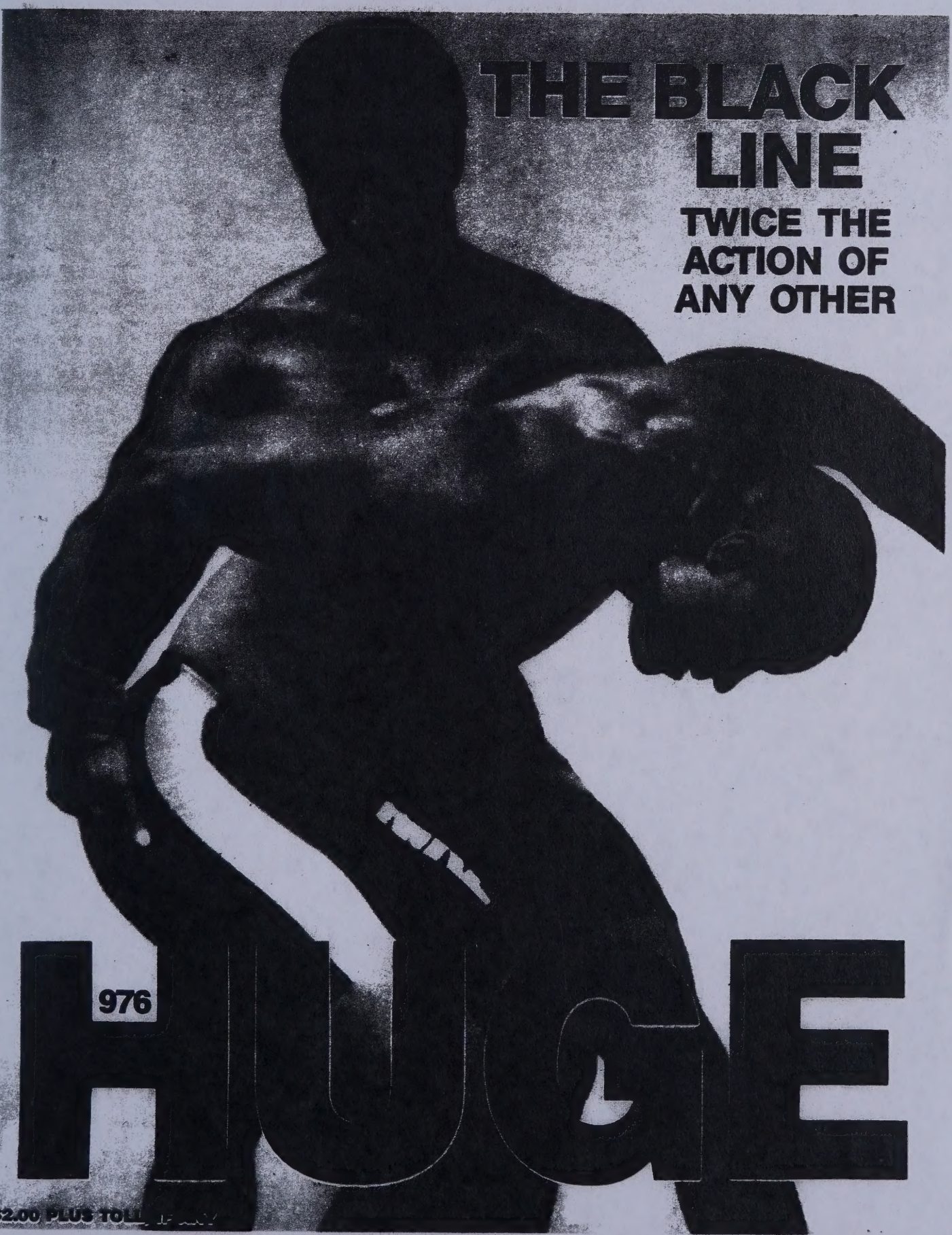
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Live D.J.: Sid      9 p.m. until      \$3 cover

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9 p.m. until      \$4 cover (\$3 before 10p.m.)



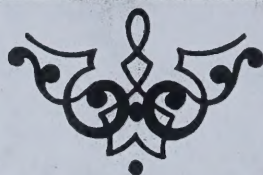
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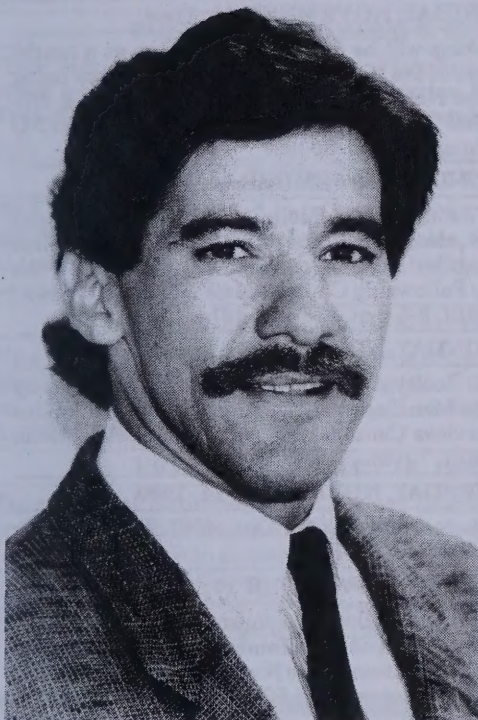
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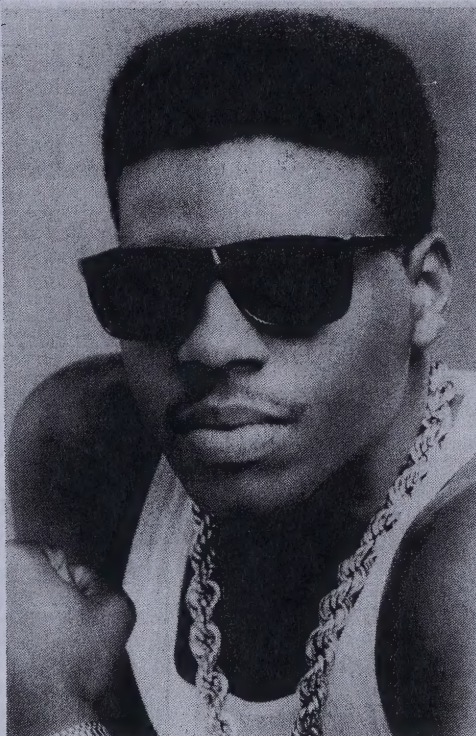




# WORD UP



Geraldo R



Schoolly D

## Exit Lines

The flip side of the 12" of "Me So Horny" by homeboy rappers, 2 Live Crew, contains "Get the Fuck Out of My House." In the four minutes and 36 seconds of this tasteful and charming tale of a young man who wants a woman to leave his residence, the word "bitch" is used 209 times or 44.78 bitches per minute (one bitch every 1.33 seconds), while the word "fuck" is used 93 times or 20.21 fucks per minute (one fuck every 2.96 seconds).

To be fair, the group did record and promote "Don't Just Talk about Safe Sex," a song encouraging their fans to wear condoms.

Apparently the group is giving their fans what they want to hear because their first two albums, *The 2 Live Crew Is What We Are* and *Move Some-thin'*, both went gold.

Their latest album, from which "Me So Horny" and "Get the Fuck Out of My House" are taken, *As Nasty as They Wanna Be*, is high on the charts.

## Getting Schooled

Schoolly D isn't exactly a paragon of good taste or even a demonstrated fan of rights for gay people,

but he did get a pro-gay dig into Geraldo Rivera on the Oct. 20 *Geraldo* show called "Rock & Roll, Sex & Slander." Rivera made a big deal of not being able to say "nigger" on TV—a couple of times bleeping it out, other times leaving it in. But the talk show host had absolutely no difficulty saying "faggot." Schoolly caught the inconsistency and dis'd him.

Good. Now if Schoolly would only clean up his own, very consistent, but hardly laudatory, act. "Bitch" (referring to women), "nigger" and "fag" all figure prominently in Schoolly's music.

Here are sample lyrics from a song called "Saturday Night": "Got kind of high and kind of drunk. So I had to beat up this little punk." Same song a verse or two later:

"Looked a little closer and I knew it was a gag. What I thought was a girl was nothing but a fag." Listen up, Schoolly. How would you feel if some white boy group started pushing a song with the line, "Nothing but a nigger."



The 2 Live Crew (from left): Brother Marquis, Mr. Mixx, Luke Skyywalker and Fresh Kid-Ice.



# BLK BOARD

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1989

Halloween party. The Study, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 9:30 p.m. 213-464-9551.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Hey, brother, safe sex rap." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1989

Halloween party. The Study, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 9:30 p.m. 213-464-9551.

Masquerade ball. Special guests and costume prizes. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 213-734-8849.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1989

"Treatment Issues in Psychotherapy with Lesbians and Gay Men" sponsored by Democratic Workplaces. Workshop co-facilitated by a team composed of a person of color and a white person. YWCA, 135 Broad St., Hartford, Conn. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$45. Call 203-951-4496 or write to Democratic Workplaces, Box 6365, Hartford, Conn. 06106.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1989

"Hot and Healthy" Gay Asian Rap Tea Dance. West Hollywood Park Auditorium, San Vicente Blvd. between Melrose and Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Calif. 9 p.m.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m.



*"And now a toast to our friends from Black and Red Men Together."*

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989

Sgt. Perry Watkins will be the keynote speaker at a luncheon which is part of the "Creating Change" conference being sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, November 9-12. Call 202-332-6483 or write to NGLTF, 1517 U St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1989

The Rap of LYFF (Let Your Feelings Flow). Today's topic: "Racism, sexism, classism: Where do we draw the line?" First of a series of regular rap sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. 213-223-4314.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave. #203, Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1989

"East Coast Sleaze Party." Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-734-8849.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1989

"Loving Ourselves," a gathering sponsored by the Nia Collective. Nov. 17-19. Held at Headlands Institute, Sausalito, Calif. For more information, write Nia Collective, Box 40134, Berkeley, Calif. 94704 or call 415-532-2758 or 415-531-2682.

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1989

"Great Black Designers," a fashion show sponsored by the NAACP/Hollywood Chapter in association with Bell Productions featuring Patrick Kelly, Drop Dead, Kevin Hall, Keith Holman, Karl Logan, Linda Stokes Originals, The Price List-Furs, Perry White and Laila El Bannan-Egypt. Benefit for Minority AIDS Project. Hors d'oeuvres and bar. Black tie optional. Hollywood Palladium, Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 6 p.m. reception; 8 p.m. show. \$10.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Dealing with Holiday Blues in the Gay Community." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Roots Room, Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. 213-666-5493.

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1989

Black and White Men Together/Bay Area begins the first of a series of monthly interracial gatherings. The evenings will consist of facilitated, small group discussions followed by unstructured social periods. Refreshments. 7-10 p.m. \$5. Call 415-641-5706 for location.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1989

"The Lesbian Civil Rights Agenda: Myth of Mystery" sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. Chi Hughes is among the guest speakers. Refreshments. Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, Calif. 7:30 p.m. 213-385-5585.



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1989**

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Bisexuality." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave. #203, Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Roots Room, Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. 213-666-5493.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1990**

Third Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Health Institute sponsored by the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum in cooperation with the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance. Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia. February 16-19. For more information, call 213-666-5495 or write BGLLF, Box 29812, Los Angeles, Calif. 90027.

**BLK**

Number 12, November 1989

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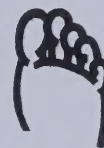
**Cover:** Jewel Williams. Story on page 7. Photo by Bob Finney.

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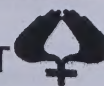
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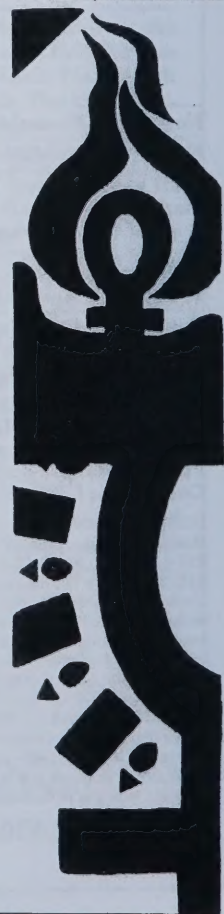
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# The Many Facets of Jewel

*Black lesbian becomes successful Southern Californnia businesswoman*

**By Ayofemi Stowe Folayan**

**T**he Catch” is a Southern California fixture. Whether it’s to “shake those booties,” relax with a drink after work or attend a political meeting, most of the members of the Los Angeles black lesbian and gay community have been there at least once. And the few that haven’t, still have heard all about the place. But the force behind the Catch One Disco (and its sister club, Jewel’s Room) is an enigma to many. But

## COVER STORY

for Jewel Williams, the owner of this disco that doubles as a community center, the combination is totally consistent with who she is.

We are sitting on a comfortable wicker couch in a large mint-colored room. On one side, noise from the traffic on Pico Blvd. seeps in the open windows. Above us on the wall, African story boards and shields from New Guinea are tastefully displayed. It could almost be a living room, except for two major distinctions. There is an enormous fully stocked bar in the center of the room and along one wall is an engaging mural of larger-than-life black people. These are fitting images chosen by this woman, who just a few days earlier held a public 50th birthday party yet sits shyly at the end of the couch with her feet tucked under her.

“I need to tell you that I am the fifth child of seven children,” she says with a directness that seems more consistent with her role as the successful entrepreneur, “My roots are from the South.”

**H**er parents migrated from near Little Rock, Ark. to Gary, Ind.—where she was born—and finally settled about four years later in San Diego, where Williams was raised. The family’s first home had two bedrooms: one for the three boys and one for the three girls. The fourth and youngest daughter was still sleeping with her parents.

Williams remains especially close to her two siblings who were younger than she. Her sister Carol, who has a degree in finance and runs her own real estate business, manages the Catch when Jewel is away. Of her younger brother Kenneth, Jewel says, “He’s my idol. I go to him for advice a lot, especially in business matters.” He owns a shopping mall and retail liquor store in South Central Los Angeles.

Coming from such a large family, Williams once harbored a strong desire to have children herself. “I wanted a bunch of [children], but I wanted a baseball team. I wanted them all to be boys.” When she couldn’t have that guarantee, she dropped the idea for a while. Age 39 was the last time she seriously considered the question, but decided at that point she really didn’t want to take on the problems associated with raising children.

As a child, Jewel was given a strong work ethic by her parents, often accompanying her mother or aunt to do domestic work. By the age of eight or nine, she had a regular job cutting deli meats for her aunt and uncle in their corner grocery store in San Diego. Although she watched them lose their profits to gambling, she still decided then that she would someday run her own business. Williams rejected the options of nursing or teaching that were reserved for black women at that time.

Although she knew early on that she wanted to pursue a career in retail, color barriers relegated those with darker-toned skin to jobs behind the scenes. With her rich dark-almond-colored skin, the only jobs she could get at the large department stores in San Diego were decorating windows or packing boxes in the shipping department. Her voice gets softer as she remembers those years. Williams attributes her persistent pursuit of success in business to one thing: “I wanted to make a lot of money. I thought it would fix the pain of being a woman, of being black, of being a dark-skinned black who was voiceless and invisible.”

Williams recalls winning a \$50 scholarship from Alpha Kappa Alpha (the black service sorority), enough to underwrite two semesters at UCLA. She was eager to be independent and left home right after hearing “Pomp and Circumstance” at her high school graduation in 1957. “My mother wasn’t someone you wanted to just hang around,” she explains. Williams moved in with an older brother and sister who already had an apartment here in Los Angeles and did domestic work on weekends.

She went back to San Diego and briefly attended San Diego State after she couldn’t find enough work in Los Angeles to support her studies. Quickly, Jewel became frustrated by the restrictions of again living at home with her parents. She returned to Los Angeles after only a year. More resourceful, she “created” work experience in order to get a job by using her parents’ address as the location of a fictitious business. Williams went through several years of chaotic work life. In one year she had 18 different jobs, although she claims proudly, “I never had to collect unemployment.”

The compassion and sensitivity that are the “setting” for this Jewel are apparent when she talks about her experience working for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. She was assigned to Sybil Brand Institute, where she couldn’t bear to see how older women who had been arrested for public drunkenness and vagrancy were just put back onto the streets after 30 days with no money or skills. Williams also detested the pseudo-military hierarchy that she was part of. She left the job after only a few months.

**J**ewel was surprised to discover that she was a lesbian. “It probably sounds strange for a lesbian to say she didn’t



Jewel Williams responds to present-day critics who say that Saturday nights at the Catch One have become "white night" with an adage: "I didn't cause it and I sure can't cure it."

She says that patterns just seem to evolve. For example, Thursdays have unofficially become "lesbian night" although there is no specific policy to create it. The club is open to anyone who can provide proper age identification and who is appropriately dressed. "The Catch One is still identified as a black gay bar," she affirms.

like women," she says. The women she saw lacked substance and couldn't make money. At work in the grocery store where she was a cashier, Williams overheard them talking about their hair and nails or crying about being beat up by their boyfriends. Even in her family, her mother treated the boys better than the girls. As a result, most of Jewel's friends were gay men.

"Later I realized I had always admired femininity," she recalls, "but I didn't associate it with any sexual preference." She had a sheltered upbringing where sex was never discussed—it was something you would do once married. A friend of her sister's called Williams a "latent homosexual" but she strongly disagreed with that definition of herself after looking it up in the dictionary. A loner, Williams did not date either men or women until she was 26 years old.

She tells the story of her first date with the woman who would become her lover for ten years. Never having been sexual with a woman before, Jewel had no idea what to expect. She arrived at the woman's apartment and was surprised to find candles and a romantic environment. Williams knew what "gay" women looked like: "they were the ones who looked like men...and wore penny loafers, white socks, Levis, and white shirts with the collars turned up and rolled-up sleeves..." It had never occurred to her what their "femme" counterparts looked like.

Jewel confesses, "I was really scared." Just to be on the safe side, she put her clothes and shoes on the floor next to the bed "fireman-style" so she could jump up and run out, if necessary. "It worked out okay," she says.

She was afraid her family would find out that she was a lesbian "for the longest." When Jewel and her first lover broke up after ten years, the lover broke the news to Jewel's mother. One of the few overt responses to her lesbianism was a letter from Jewel's father saying that he was praying for her. Mostly her family didn't talk about it. For a while, she was excluded from family gatherings such as weddings and funerals, although Williams remained close to her younger brother Kenneth and sister Carol. She cites a fashion show that was held this past May where most of the family was in attendance and did not shun her present lover as a sign that their homophobic barriers are coming down.

**D**uring this time, Williams began buying and renovating houses with her lover. Later she opened a boutique with her sister Carol in the early seventies that ultimately closed during the recession. Determined not to be victimized by the vagaries of the economy again, she sought advice from her brother Kenneth.

Ultimately, Jewel decided to open a bar for several reasons. She says she was unwilling to pay attention to the details that are necessary to make a profit in a retail liquor store operation. She had "maxxed out" on the boutique business and needed a challenge. She also observed that business was still good at her brother's liquor store when people didn't

have money to spend on clothes or manicures.

Williams realized she would have to own the bar to become a bartender, another personal goal, because laws at that time prohibited women mixologists except those who owned their facilities. That law was repealed in the mid-seventies, along with a law that prohibited same sex couples dancing together (which would make even more possible the future Catch One disco).

At that time, the bar at the present location of the Catch One catered only to white clientele. It was commonly known that blacks were not welcome. Jewel had often told herself, as she worked at a market across the street, "One of these days I'm going to own that bar." Four years later, she had gone to investigate another bar on Western Avenue that had been listed in the "Business Opportunities" section of the *Los Angeles Times*, when she learned that the owner of the bar on Pico wanted to sell. Williams arranged the deal the same day and became the owner of the "Diana Club" in 1972.

She speaks of "good karma" as a way to explain her process of acquiring the business. The previous owner was even offered more money after Jewel's initial downpayment was made. At the time, she wasn't even sure how she was going to raise the money to close escrow, but a technical error in the paperwork won her a 30-day extension, enough time to come up with the necessary funds.

Jewel says, "I had to wear three different masks every day." There was an older white heterosexual crowd that came in during the afternoons and whose dependable presence financially supported the fledgling business. That group was replaced by black blue collar laborers who stopped in after work for a few drinks. Later in the evening, the gay contingent would arrive. The shift to a primarily gay clientele happened subtly as the older patrons died or wandered away.

In November of 1973, Williams began holding Sunday afternoon "tea dances" in the upstairs area. Eventually, in March of 1974, the business shifted totally to the upstairs area and was renamed "The Catch One" after a customer kept saying he was going to "catch one"—a hot date—as he was leaving the club.

In September of 1975, Williams purchased the building when she learned that the owners were in foreclosure. She rented out the downstairs to theatre and religious groups until 1976, when the space reopened as "Jewel's Room." She struggled to do renovations to improve the appearance of the disco, recycling any profits and painting walls herself, because "loans just weren't available."

Business continued to flourish to the point that Williams "maxxed out" again, turning to alcohol and drugs at age 39 in an effort to restimulate her life. She had a vision of opening discos in five or six major cities, including Denver and Houston. She went to Houston in 1981 as the first step in

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*The fire marshals and police recognized the m.o. used to start the fire and declared that it was arson after a brief investigation. The morning after the fire, Jewel received a huge cash offer to sell the property.*

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that plan and in an attempt to escape the cocaine abuse that was rapidly consuming her life. She remodeled a large supermarket into a gay disco there. After the oil embargo, the economy of Houston took a major nosedive and she returned to Los Angeles when the Houston club failed.

After her return from Houston, Jewel had another major setback when a fire gutted the Catch One in July of 1985. The fire marshals and police recognized the m.o. used to start the fire and declared that it was arson after a brief investigation. The morning after the fire, Jewel received a huge cash offer to sell the property.

Williams describes the experience as "devastating," yet says that she took the fire as a signal from God. All her life, prior to using drugs and alcohol, she had been blessed with "good karma." As she explains, "I had never had any difficulty making money. Now I had to face that a string of difficulties had happened while I was drinking and drugging."

About three years ago, Williams got clean and sober through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Her involvement with Rev. Carl Bean of the Unity Fellowship Church and the Minority Aids Project dates back to about the same time. "I admire and appreciate the work Rev. Bean is doing in the community," she says.

"I got involved because a lot of my friends and customers were being infected by the AIDS virus," she explains. "A whole generation of young people is being affected. It's genocide." Williams generously gave her time, energy and money to support the work of the project.

Williams is no longer actively working with the Minority AIDS Project, although she is very much engaged in community service. Her goal is to positively impact the next generation of young people. At the present time, construction is being completed on a hamburger stand in the mini-mall across the street from the Catch One. The plan is to provide job opportunities for students, whose employment will include paid supervised study time. "They don't have to be 'A' or 'B' students," Jewel says, "but they have to be at least 'C' students. That shows that they are willing to make an effort."

Williams is also trying to purchase a carpet store that is for sale near the club. She expresses similar plans to provide employment and training opportunities for young people. Eventually, she plans to sponsor a community-based center for young people from ages 7 to 17 called Help Us Get It Together Now (HUG IT), where young people can come after school for tutoring and emotional support. "We need to stop the cycle of low self-esteem, alcohol and drug abuse, and battering in our community," Jewel says. "These kids need a safe place to talk about their anger and frustration."

Her eyes light up as she talks about her present lover, Rue Thaïs, and how they met at an Open House for the Minority AIDS Project. "She came for dinner and never went home," Williams says. The couple was married in September. "It's hard to describe the feelings," Jewel says, speaking of the ceremony. "I felt like Cinderella. It was like walking on air. It was definitely the biggest event so far in my life." Their honeymoon was a trip to the South Sea islands of Tahiti, Bora Bora and Fiji.

With sobriety and a program for living, Jewel Williams no longer gets "maxxed out." Williams describes turning 50 as "a new beginning" and looks forward to longevity, to being "one of those strong black women who have survived" to the age of 85 or 90 to become role models. She starts to describe an aunt who took her first driving lesson at the age of 88. A gleam comes into her eyes as Jewel talks in the next breath about reclaiming her inner child and allowing her to come out to play.

The sun has set and the faces in the mural are softened in the pale glow of lamplight, but Jewel Williams has only begun to shine.



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D.J.: Tony Powell

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# BLK COMMUNITY NEWS

## Ex Head of Civil Rights Commission Participates in Lou Sheldon-Backed Anti-Gay Meeting in Anaheim

By Alan Smithee

ANAHEIM, Calif.—Dr. William Allen, former chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, spoke on the second day of a two-day fundamentalist Christian conference on homosexuality, despite opposition from colleagues and gay activists, 40 of whom were arrested for attempting to disrupt the event.

In his speech, "Blacks? Animals? Homosexuals? What is a Minority?" Allen said that special protection for lesbians and gay men or any other minority is "insidious and harmful" because it dilutes individual rights and "leads to heightened tensions and antagonism" among groups.

Later, Allen, who is black, said at a news conference that "all that is needed insofar as American liberty is concerned is if we guarantee the rights of individuals."

About 75 people paid the \$60 registration, lunch and book fee to attend the Oct. 6-7 gathering called a "West Coast Symposium on Homosexuality and Public Policy Implications." Although permission to attend was strictly monitored, an undetermined number of lesbian and gay men did gain admittance to the closed meeting.

The assembly was sponsored by the California Coalition of Traditional Values (CCTV) of which the Rev. Louis P. Sheldon is chair.

An estimated 250 lesbians and gay men had gathered outside the hotel where the seminar was held to protest the meeting and Allen's participation.

"This position is an attack on gay rights," said protester Sally Gearhart, a professor at San Francisco State University. "It is an interpretation of the Constitution that does not allow us the freedom we need to address institutional homophobia."

Allen, a professor of government at Harvey Mudd College, was scheduled to speak at 11 a.m., but his plane was delayed and his speech postponed until 2:30 p.m. Shortly before noon, 40 protesters crowded into the lobby chanting, clapping and blowing whistles.

About 10 minutes later, Anaheim police began arresting the protesters, largely members of the Orange County Visibility League (OCVL) and ACT-UP/LA. Most of those arrested were cited and released. A number of the protesters, however, had left before Allen arrived.

Allen's fellow commissioners had chastized him in a 6-1 vote for agreeing to appear at the seminar. Specifically, they took issue with the title of his speech, which they termed "thoughtless, disgusting and unnecessarily inflammatory." Allen referred to them in his speech, calling their reaction to a speech they had not seen as "bigoted."

Allen was appointed to the chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Aug. 8, 1988, after serving as a member since 1985. He received his doctorate from Claremont Graduate School in 1972 and is president of the Claremont Unified School District. Allen recently resigned from the Commission.

Several Southern California lesbian and gay organizations tried for weeks, without success, to convince Allen not to attend.

In a letter to Allen before his appearance at the confer-

ence, Urvashi Vaid, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, urged Allen not to participate, saying the "event is riddled with open hostility and prejudice toward gay and lesbian citizens."

"I regret that as commission chairman you will align yourself with some of the most virulent hate mongers in this country," she wrote. "It further discredits the commission if its chairman is participating in a symposium about some of the most quack theories of sexuality around."

But activists were successful in convincing both the Radisson Hotel in Irvine and subsequently the Doubletree Hotel in Orange not to host the assembly forcing the organizers to move the conference on two separate occasions. The event was finally held at the Pan-Pacific Hotel in Anaheim.

Kevin Farrell, a spokesman for the OCVL, said demonstrators were especially upset that Allen would "lend the prestige of his office to this gathering, which is nothing but gay-bashing with a thin veneer of so-called respectability and academia."

This is not the first time that Allen has been the center of controversy. He has been charged with trying to bring issues before the Civil Rights Commission that are prohibited by Federal rules, trying to reactivate the use of discredited student testing procedures and demoting a critic. In addition, he was charged with kidnapping last year in a dispute involving the adoption of a young native American. Those charges were subsequently dropped.

Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.), who chairs the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, stated in a letter to Allen that his participation in the anti-gay conference "appears to be outside the scope of the commission's jurisdiction, and is an inappropriate use of limited commission resources."

Sue Tallon, a lesbian from Culver City, takes issue with how the CCTV conference was promoted. "We feel this to be a dangerous gathering because in calling itself a symposium, it lends a veneer of legitimacy to a potentially disastrous agenda."

"We're just trying to have a seminar based on the desire to help homosexuals who desire to come out of the homosexual lifestyle," said Ed Steele, a CCTV spokesman. "There is no animosity toward individual gays and lesbians."

But Sheldon said the focus of the assembly was on society's growing acceptance of gay rights, which could lead to the eventual "total destruction of the heterosexual ethic."

Sheldon said he believes "homosexuality is a behavior that is learned" and that gay rights are not a civil rights issue. "I believe in equal rights, but not special rights," he said.

Sheldon, who converted to Christianity, denied that his seminar, by not inviting gay people to participate, was promoting anti-homosexuality. "We want to present an alternate viewpoint," he said. "We are presenting the facts in a very compassionate, scientific, legal way."

Other conference participants included California Republican Congressmen William Dannemeyer and Robert Dornan.

On Friday, someone set off a stink bomb at the hotel. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Sheldon blamed "militant" homosexuals.





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### November

### December

**1st Tuesday**

**7th at 7:30 p.m.**  
Minority AIDS Project

**5th at 7:30 p.m.**  
Minority AIDS Project

**2nd Monday**

**13th at 7:00 p.m.**  
LA Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center

**11th at 7:00 p.m.**  
LA Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center

**3rd Thursday**

**23rd at 8:00 p.m.**  
Catch One Disco - Roots Room

**21st at 8:00 p.m.**  
Catch One Disco - Roots Room

**Information:**

**BWMT/LA: 213/666-5493**

**Locations:**

Catch One Disco  
4067 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles

Minority AIDS Project  
5149 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
Los Angeles

Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center - Rm. 203  
1213 N. Highland Ave., L.A.



# Black Gay Community in San Francisco Survives Earthquake; Street People, Hustlers Hardest Hit

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer  
and Alan Smithee

OAKLAND—Although the 7.1 earthquake that devastated parts of the San Francisco Bay Area had no comprehensive impact on the area's African-American gay community, sources report localized disruptions that ranged from trivial to serious.

In general, middle- and high-income black lesbians and gay men with adequate support systems in place fared well, while street people, including a significant number of hustlers and transvestites, found themselves without food or shelter.

The day-to-day operations of several black lesbian and gay organizations were momentarily disrupted, but all have managed to carry on their programs. No serious injuries or fatalities were reported.

## Places and People

Staff members at AIDS Project of the East Bay (APEB) were barred from entering their offices at 565 16th St. in Oakland for two days while the building was examined for structural weakness. According to Aaron Crutizon, director of AIDS education at APEB, several adjacent buildings "fell apart."

When the staff, which Crutizon described as "traumatized" and "stressed," was allowed to re-enter, they faced a half-day clean-up job, then contacted their client roster. Some staff members were shaken from having seen people hit by falling bricks, he said.

City officials prohibited workers from entering the building that houses the African-American Men's Health Project (AAMHP) at 74 New Montgomery St. pending structural evaluation. Lee Middleton, a project assistant at AAMHP, described the offices as "a mess."

The black gay homeless, found life even harder as their customary haunts and sleeping locations had been disrupted or co-opted by others. In addition, city shelters were overcrowded, food resources had to be spread among more people and requests for spare change were less likely to be honored.

While nationwide attention was focused on San Francisco's wealthy Marina District, residents in a section of Oakland's downtown area filled with "single room occupancy" hotels and section 8 (subsidized) housing had to find other accommodations. Over 100 buildings were "red-tagged" or judged unsafe. The area is a well-known spot for transvestite and transsexual hustling.

Although a number of shelters were set up to accommodate those displaced by the earthquake, they tended, predictably, to minister to the needs of those who had been traditionally housed. Those who had no place to live before the disaster, generally found that the newly created emergency housing did not change their situations.

Louis Ashley, chair of the newly-formed Oakland Black Gay Political Association, and a board member of Black and White Men Together/Oakland, tells of attempts by officials at the Red Cross Shelter located at Oakland Technical High School to eject a black homeless transvestite named Rochelle who they claimed was threatening and disruptive. "It was a lifestyle dispute," said Ashley.

"On top of that, you have post-disaster depression, anxiety, anger, fear and all that stuff. The situation here is dividing the community by the 'haves' and the 'have nots,'" maintains Gary Harmon, a member of the AIDS Advisory Board for Alameda County (AABAC) and APEB's secretary

of board. "It's been really difficult trying to help people who have lost everything go through the assistance program. Economically and educationally they just don't know how to work the system and are getting caught in the cracks and falling through."

"There is also a dry spell of crack cocaine here which is causing other problems," Harmon confided.

But there are heroes as well. One hotel manager in the black community provided housing in his facility for ten people for four nights. The beds went largely to black gay men.

Mercy Manor, the 122-bed convalescent facility that is a joint project of the AABAC, Sisters of Mercy, Catholic Charities and several community-based agencies, has been accepting PWAs displaced by the quake. The transitional housing is open to them for up to three months.

"The biggest problem we are having now is that everyone is running after the same county pennies," said Harmon, describing the Bay Area's financial situation.

## Bars, Pubs and Bathhouses

The black gay community's bars and pubs went largely unscathed. Most closed the night of the shaker, but re-opened the next day.

Art White, a bartender at the Pendulum in San Francisco, says patrons were "a little scared the first couple of days, but things are back to normal now."

Rolando Rattler, a bartender at Bella Napoli in Oakland, said the club closed the night of the earthquake, but opened the next day as usual. Down the street, Cabel's Reef didn't even close the night of the disaster. Al Styles, a bartender at the club, reports that Cabel's was closed only for the three hours it took to get power restored. When the lights came back on, the club opened its doors. During the power outage, patrons moved to the more mellow and mostly white Town and Country, located nearby, where, according to Harmon, "they weren't too well received."

A worker at Steamworks, a bathhouse in Berkeley, says the club was closed for two days, then opened to generally normal crowds.

## Effect on AIDS-related Organizations

But as the appearance of normalcy returns to the everyday scene, the long-term effects of the earthquake, particularly on AIDS-related agencies, are more difficult to determine. Only now are lesbian and gay activists across the state attempting to assess the toll on AIDS service providers in the region.

The fate of AIDS-related organizations is important due to the disproportionate number of AIDS cases in the black gay community.

"The San Francisco Model" as it is known, is—or was—the most comprehensive cooperative effort of interlinked AIDS organizations and government programs in the nation. San Francisco has been a leading developer of services and ideas, ranging from early intervention strategies and anonymous testing for HIV, to bereavement counseling and counseling for health care providers. Many are volunteer organizations that took up the responsibility of caring for persons with AIDS and their families, pets and bills as well as their emotional and spiritual well-being.

As early as spring of 1989, there was much discussion over how to maintain the quality of services available to persons with AIDS or HIV and their families in the face of a

*Continued on page 29*





## **SUNDAY**

### **Jewel's Room**

#### **"Visions"**

*(Jazz/Blues Band)*

5-7 p.m.

**NO COVER** 'til 7p.m.

*Complimentary Buffet*

*Open 3p.m.-2a.m.*

### **Talent Showcase**

*With Hostesses*

*Judie Jones &  
Renee Scott*

*Showtime 10:30p.m.*

*Cash Prizes*

### **Catch One**

7p.m. - 2a.m.

*Theme Parties &  
Special Events*

*Dancing*

## **MONDAY**

**Oldies But Goodies**

**Happy Hours All Night  
Long!**

*Complimentary Buffet*

**NO COVER**

3 p.m. - 2a.m.

*Monday Nite Football*

## **TUESDAY**

### **Jewel's Room**

*Tonett McKinney's*

*Talent Showcase*

*Showtime 10:15p.m.*

**Happy Hours 'til 9p.m.**

3p.m. - 2a.m.

**NO COVER**

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **Jewel's Room**

**Nadirah's**

**Wednesday Affair**

*Live Show-Dancing-*

**NO COVER**

10:30 p.m.

**Happy Hours 'til 9p.m.**

**NO COVER 3p.m.-2a.m.**

### **Catch One**

**Men's Night**

*Theme Parties*

*Open 9p.m.- 2a.m.*

*Admission \$ 3.00*

*Sleaze Party 3rd Wed.*

*Jock Strap Aerobics*

*1st,2nd,3rd Wed.*

*8:30-9:30p.m.-*

**NO COVER**

## **THURSDAY**

### **CATCH ONE**

**Lip Sync &**

**Male And Female**

**Exotic Dancers**

*Hosted By*

*Mr. Maurice and Cabrini*

9p.m. - 2a.m.

*Admission \$3.00*

**Cash Prizes !!!**

### **JEWEL'S ROOM**

**Happy Hours**

3p.m. - 9p.m.

*Complimentary Buffet*

*Close at 11p.m.*

## **FRIDAY**

### **JEWEL'S ROOM**

**Our Infamous Friday**

**Happy Hours !**

**NO COVER**

3p.m.-9p.m.

*Close at 11p.m.*

### **CATCH ONE**

**Party Animal Night !**

**Theme Parties**

*Open 9p.m.-4a.m.*

*\$3.00 Before 11p.m.*

*\$5.00 After 11p.m.*

**DRINK SPECIALS &**

**PROMOTIONAL**

**GIVEAWAYS**

**FOR EARLY BIRDS !!!**

## **SATURDAY**

### **JEWEL'S ROOM**

**James' Saturday  
Afternoon**

**Bar-b-que &**

**Big Screen Videos !**

1p.m. - 9p.m.

**Happy Hours**

### **CATCH ONE**

**International**

**Dance Ritual !!!**

*D.J.s Billy Long &  
Bobby Martin*

9p.m. - 6a.m.

*Admission \$6.00 Before*

*Midnight*

*\$10.00 After Midnight*

**Halloween Ball Tuesday Oct.31 Catch One -9p.m.-2a.m.**

**Thanksgiving Extravaganza Wednesday, Nov.22-Nov.25 after Hours & Co-ed**

**Christmas Party Monday, Dec.25**

**New Year's Eve Spectacular Sunday, Dec.31**



## New Group Forms for Light-Skinned Lesbians

LONDON—A group for light-skinned and mixed race lesbians conceived at a convention workshop has met in London three times so far and has important plans for the future. Created at the recent Zami 2 black lesbian conference, the group has taken the form of a discussion and support group.

According to the group's organizers, it is "a place where we can share our varied experiences of double invisibility as black and lesbian, reclaim our identity and celebrate all the communities we may be part of—all in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere."

Interestingly, the group takes issue with its own name. A recent story quoted spokespersons as saying, "In many ways the name of the group is inadequate. We realize that we need to come up with our own new ways of naming ourselves. 'Light skinned' is a relative term which also has connotations going back into history, particularly in the Caribbean."

"Mixed race' is in many ways a racist term," they continue. "It is usually used for people with one black and one white parent and is Eurocentric because it implies that [black and white] is the only 'racial mixing' that has occurred, or that is noteworthy."

## Nia Collective to Meet at Institute in Sausalito

BERKELEY, Calif.—The Nia Collective, a group of black lesbians, is sponsoring a gathering at the Headlands Institute in Sausalito, Calif., called "Loving Ourselves." The meeting will take place Nov. 17-19.

According to the group, the purpose of the gathering is to "reaffirm our existence, create a safe atmosphere for growth and empowerment, and nurture an environment of continual solidarity and warmth in our community of black lesbians." Attendance is open to black lesbians over 18 years old.

In addition to workshops, information exchange and networking, the weekend will include recreational events. The seashore is a short walk away. Housing will be provided dormitory style.

Registration between Oct. 18 and Nov. 3 is \$100. Registration fees will be waived for a limited number of women. For more information, call 415-532-2758, 415-531-2682 or write Nia Collective, Box 40134, Berkeley, Calif. 94704.

## Gleaton Receives Award

WASHINGTON—Faith Temple presented its first James S. Tinney Award to Thomas E. Gleaton recently in recognition of his "outstanding work to the glory of God and in service to our community."

The award is named for Faith Temple founder, James Tinney, who died last year. According to Faith Temple elder R. Michael Vanzant, the award is presented to a person who is "active in the gay community as a force for awareness, justice, and change," is active in a church, and accepts Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior.

Gleaton, a Faith Temple deacon, is in charge of the church's outreach programs, a volunteer at the Whitman-Walker Clinic, secretary for the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, and vice president of the Mel Boozler Leadership Roundtable.

Gleaton was chosen by a panel of church leaders, on recommendations from members of the church and community.

## Establish Cable Hotline to Help Passage of ADA

WASHINGTON—The National Minority AIDS Council is part of a coalition of groups participating in a high-tech lobbying mechanism to help assure passage of far reaching federal legislation to provide legal protection to people with AIDS or HIV infection.

A special telephone hotline has been established by a coalition of disability and AIDS activist groups to provide Congress with a flood of telegrams in support of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989 (ADA).

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CDC) is composed of several dozen national organizations providing services and advocacy for persons with physical and emotional disabilities. The CDC has been the leading group advocating for the ADA as it moves through Congress.

ADA is designed to protect all persons with physical and emotional disabilities including the estimated 1.5 million Americans infected with the HIV virus. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 76 to 8 on Sept. 7 and is expected to be voted on by the House of Representatives during the fall. President Bush has publicly expressed his strong support for the passage of the bill including the HIV-related portions of the bill.

An individual can send a telegram in support of ADA and have the charges billed to his or her telephone by calling 800-257-4900, ext. 9565 (or TTD 800-541-1792 for the hearing impaired). An operator will record the caller's name, address and phone number for billing purposes and to determine the constituent's correct Congressional representatives. The charge is \$7.50.

Three different, pre-recorded messages will be sent to Congress on behalf of the caller. Since the status of the bill can change daily, messages are written by the Coalition to fit the current status of the bill. Callers can request that a copy of the message be sent to them when speaking with the Hotline operator.



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## NGLTF Holds 2nd Annual Convention in Maryland

WASHINGTON—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) has announced the latest revision of the program for its Creating Change conference to be held Nov. 10-12 at the Bethesda Holiday Inn, outside the nation's capital. NGLTF's second annual conference will include speakers, workshops and conference scholarships.

In addition, NGLTF announced that its one-day pre-conference fundraising seminar has already been sold out. Robert Farmer, treasurer of the Democratic National Committee and development official for the Michael Dukakis for President Campaign, will speak at the seminar.

African-Americans presenting workshops include: Joyce Hunter, Martin Hectick Institute; Martin Hiraga, Rochester ACT-UP; Sabrina Sojourner, editor of *Etc.*, Angela Bowen, editor of *Black / Out* and board co-chair of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; Howard Berthoud, National Abortion Rights League; Phill Wilson, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum; A. Billy S. Jones, National AIDS Network; Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together; Sandy Lowe, lawyer; Ivy Young, director of the Family Project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

NGLTF also announced it had received a \$10,000 grant from the Chicago Resource Center to increase attendance by people of color and the disabled. NGLTF will recruit individuals from the nationwide lesbian and gay community to receive grant scholarships.

Conference coordinator Steve Snell said that pre-registration has far surpassed last year's figures. "We already have three times more registrants than at this same time last year," said Snell. "We urge people to get their registrations in as soon as possible."

The 1989 conference will include keynote speeches by Perry Watkins, Vito Russo and Suzanne Pharr. It will also feature an exhibit area, a video, film and slide presentation area, and an "information exchange" for groups to swap brochures and other materials.

In conjunction with Creating Change, there will be a pre-Veterans Day demonstration in front of the White House to protest the military's anti-lesbian and gay policies.

For registration and other information on the November conference, contact Creative Change, NGLTF, 1517 U Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, or call 202-332-6483.

## Political Forum Slated by GLLU, MECLA, GALA

LOS ANGELES—An informational forum for the gay and lesbian community will be co-sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos (GLLU), the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA), and the Occidental Gay and Lesbian Association (GALA). The program will take place Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Occidental College in Eagle Rock. The theme is "Being Informed, Creating Change."

According to Lydia Otero, GLLU president, "In these times when affirmative action is being eroded, and lesbian and gay rights are being attacked, it is important for lesbians and gay men to understand the political system. We are particularly excited about this program because it will provide valuable information to people who are new to the political process, as well as those who are already politically involved."



# ACT-UP Leads Demonstrations Across America

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer

Demonstrators in 20 cities across the United States had thousands of lesbian and gay men marching in the streets Oct. 6 to protest government inaction in the AIDS crisis along with a number of other AIDS-related issues.

Seventy activists were arrested in Los Angeles in a planned act of civil disobedience at the Federal building in Westwood, while 60 people were arrested in San Francisco as police swinging clubs swept through the Castro area after a peaceful march and rally in the civic center.

The largest demonstration in the country was in Chicago, where 800 activists from ACT-UP/Chicago joined forces with Pro-choice groups to march in the Loop in downtown Chicago.

Demonstrations in Boston, Denver, Kansas City and Austin denounced manufacturers of AIDS drugs and medical institutions for their insensitivity and lack of compassion. Over 200 activists in Washington, D.C., staged a "die-in" in front of the White House in the face of a massive police presence.

## San Francisco

The police presence in San Francisco led to over 200 complaints being filed with the Office of Citizen Complaints against the San Francisco Police Department for brutality and excessive force.

Police reportedly stomped on some on the 500 protesters, pinning many against walls of buildings, or knocking them to the street. Reports also detail harassment of bewildered bystanders emerging from subway stations after work and shoppers coming out of neighborhood markets. One man was repeatedly stomped on as terrified witnesses watched from inside the Double Rainbow Ice Cream Parlor.

Those fortunate enough to be in any of the shops, cafes, or bars along Castro St. were forced to remain there for over half an hour, as the riot police swept back and forth along the length of the block from Market to 18th Sts.

Ironically, the official liaison to the police department for the demonstration was among the first arrested as he tried to identify himself to police officers. At least ten civilians and three police officers were injured in the melee.

Over 1500 gays and lesbians returned to the same spot the following day, Oct. 7, to protest police actions on what has become known as "The Blue Night," for the uniforms worn by the 200 tactical squad police from San Francisco's Northern Station.

Unfortunately, the devastation of the Oct. 17 earthquake may diminish the likelihood of an immediate inquiry into police excesses.

## Los Angeles

The 6 a.m. demonstration by more than 400 activists that attempted to shut down the Federal Building in Westwood went much more smoothly. Demonstrators chanted "Money for AIDS, Not for War" and "Shame! Shame! Shame!"

Federal police showed up wearing latex gloves, surgical masks, and other protective gear. The excessive protective garments were met with disbelief by many of the 80 activists who were arrested in the carefully planned civil disobedience, as many of those present were the most prominent and knowledgeable AIDS education experts in Southern California.

Most of those arrested were detained briefly on a charge of disorderly conduct or resisting arrest, then released upon payment of a \$25 fine.

The largest ever contingent of lesbian and gay people of color to be arrested at a demonstration in Los Angeles in-

cluded Gil Gerald, executive director of the Minority AIDS Project (MAP), and Tomas Soto, director of client services at MAP.

Also arrested were Arturo Ollums of Cara a Cara, Juan Mendez of Stop AIDS, Richard Martinez of the National Latino Lesbian and Gay Organization, and Rarvez Salinas. In all, people of color made up roughly 10 percent of those arrested.

Both Gerald and Soto expressed concern for making sure people of color were present to include their voices in the chorus of anger aimed at the slowness of the federal government to action in the AIDS crisis.

Gay and lesbian Latinos Unidos was the best represented Third World organization at the Los Angeles demonstration, although its members did not officially plan to be arrested as a group.

Some, such as Juan Mendez, came on their own. Said Mendez, "We were part of a group that made a clear choice to be there. I felt secure if others were going to do it, I could do it." Added Soto, "I wanted to do my part. I have a lot of respect for people who do this [civil disobedience] regularly." Both Soto and Mendez were among those who decided only days before to join others risking arrest at the demonstration.

Gerald found his experience as the only black among the 80 arrested to be "interesting" and "disturbing." Other lesbian and gay Third World activists called Gerald's involvement "inspirational." Both Gerald and Soto were out of jail by noon and back at work at MAP after lunch as if it were any other day. "It was a busy day," Soto admitted.

One participant, Peter Sigal, was charged with a more serious count of assault after allegedly spitting on a police officer. Police commented that if Sigal was found to be HIV positive, they would work to have the charges changed to attempted murder. Even as a judge was ordering Sigal's release on \$5,000 bail, Federal officers were driving him across town to Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center in an attempt to coerce him into consenting to allow a blood test for HIV. Sigal was released unharmed when a judge was made aware of his situation.

One participant who made a memorable impression was Rodney Shaw of Long Beach, a blind man arrested along with his seeing-eye dog, Dovey.

All of the activists in the Los Angeles protest deemed the event a success, even though they failed to shut down the federal Building for the day. The widespread media coverage and broad support from across the lesbian and gay community, and participation by non-gay activists from the pro-choice movement brought favorable attention from many—even government employees blocked from getting to their work.

"It was good. It made a statement," Soto summed up.

## Women's Issues Noted

By Belinda Rochelle

WASHINGTON—The National Institute for Women of Color (NIWC) has launched a project aimed at providing educational and informational resources to local groups organizing on health care issues related to black women.

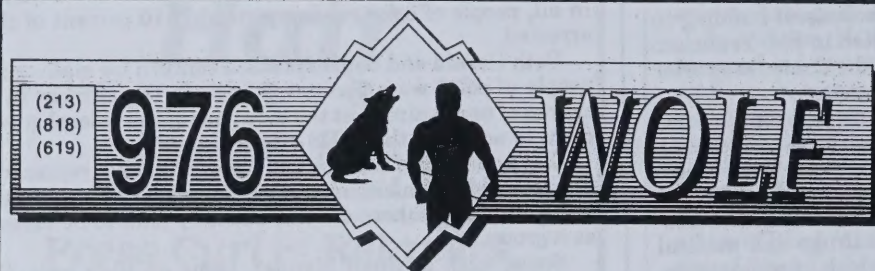
NIWC monitors policy developments on health care alternatives by identifying cultural barriers, gender and race discrimination, and alerts citizens to upcoming legislative hearings on health care issues. The institute also identifies matters related to violence against women and children, sexism and associated social concerns.

NIWC is located at 1400 - 20th St., N.W. #104, Washington, D.C. 20036.



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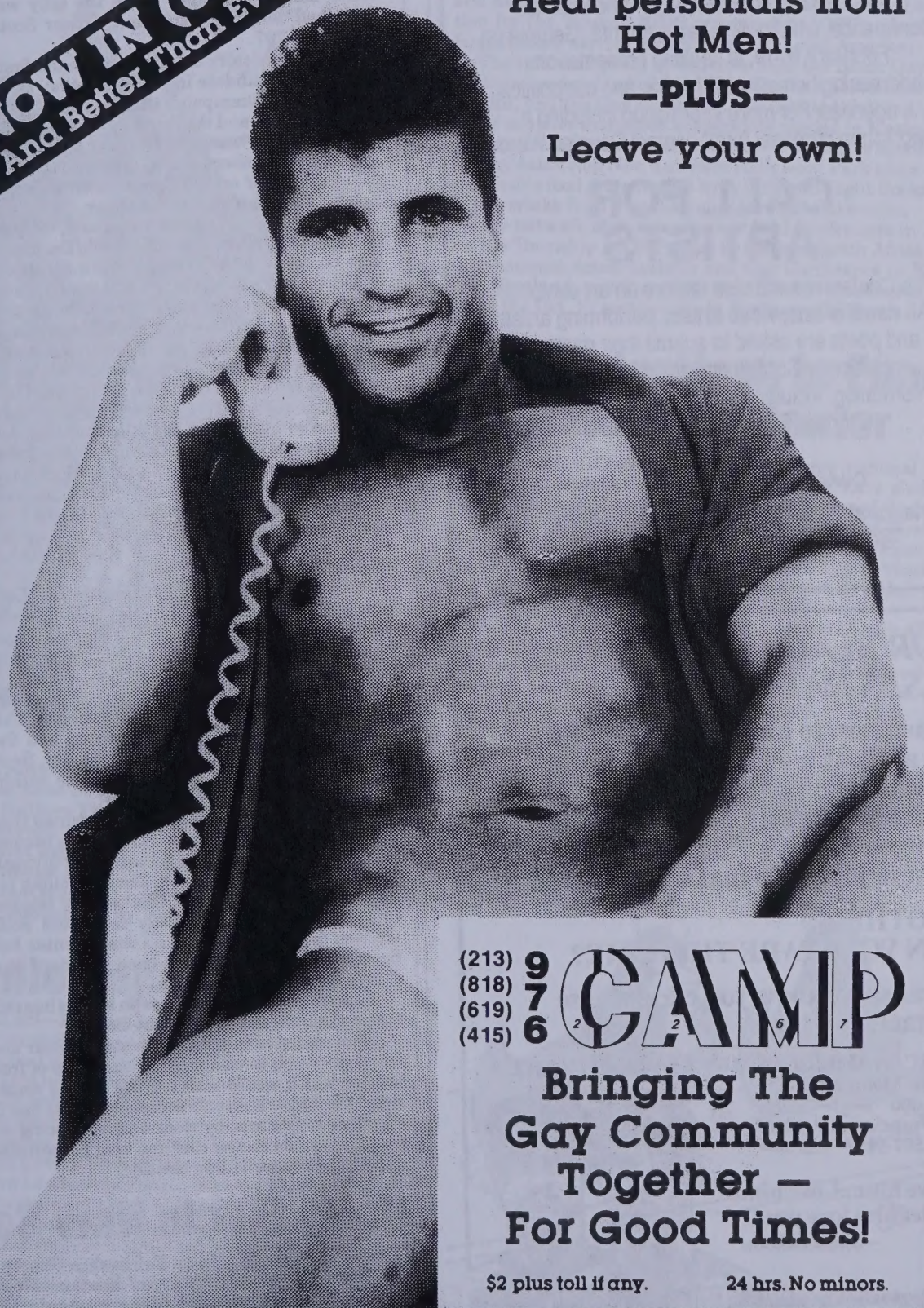


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## CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The 1990 National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, which will meet in Atlanta, Georgia on February 16-19, is seeking presentations addressing homophobia, AIDS, and our political agendas. For more information including a workshop proposal form, contact Douglas Ware.

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Conference will also feature an art exhibition. All visual artists, video artists, performing artists and poets are asked to submit their names for inclusion in Conference activities. For more information, including a submission form, contact Leonard Simon or Katrice Jackson.

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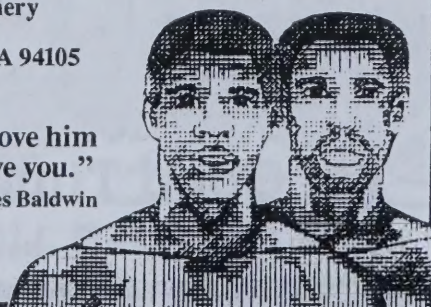
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—James Baldwin



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## St. John Wins Primary

ALBANY, N.Y.—Keith St. John finally claimed victory in the Democratic primary for alderman in Albany's 2nd Ward. But it was close. When the tally was complete, St. John had defeated incumbent Arthur Scott by only three votes, 710-707.

St. John's victory is believed to be the first ever by a black openly gay candidate in a U.S. election. He had maintained throughout his campaign that he was a "candidate who happens to be gay" and that civil rights for the city's lesbian and gay community was only one part of his agenda.

In the November general election, St. John will face Scott, who will appear on the Conservative Party line, and Marty Kerins, the Republican challenger.

Before the primary vote, Scott said, "Gayness should have no impact on St. John's ability to do the job." But that didn't stop someone from distributing a virulently homophobic leaflet throughout the 2nd Ward the day before the election charging that St. John had been dishonest.

St. John called his victory "a clear message to the machine that not only do we have very competent people that can represent contemporary issues, but we have some very smart voters who know when things need to be changed."

Shortly after the polls closed, local media proclaimed St. John the winner with a 165 vote lead over Scott out of some 1,400 votes cast. However, an unknown number of absentee ballots had not yet been counted. More than 100 of them were placed in the possession of the Board of Elections after lawyers for St. John got a State Supreme Court judge to issue a restraining order the day after the election. The judge's ruling halted the counting of absentee ballots in the 2nd Ward's fourth election district.

According to one of St. John's attorneys, Democratic Party officials, working on behalf of Scott, had identified 2nd Ward residents they claimed met the criteria for casting absentee ballots. They had collected the marked ballots and turned them over to the Board of Elections, which is legal under election law. An additional number of absentee ballots, up to 56, had been applied for but not turned in. These additional ballots still could have been counted had they been post-marked before midnight on election day, Sept. 12 and had they arrived at the Board of Elections within seven days. Only one arrived.

But the St. John campaign maintained that at least 117 of the ballots were potentially ineligible because they either failed to contain a doctor's signature certifying that the voter would indeed be unable to reach the polling place, or in the case of 19 voters, were in fact cast by residents known to have been able to physically reach the polling place on election day. But even had all the absentee ballots gone for Scott, they would not have been sufficient to overcome St. John's lead.

Supreme Court Justice Joseph Harris has refused to order a new election, as requested by Scott.

"The record is completely devoid of clear and convincing evidence which establishes the existence of fraud or irregularities which would warrant the setting aside of this election," the judge wrote. "Petitioner [Scott] has failed to substantiate his claims, by clear and convincing evidence, that fraud, intimidation or coercion was perpetrated by anyone during the course of this election."

## Unity Elects New Board

LOS ANGELES—Unity Fellowship Church has elected four new members to its board of directors. Newly added are Joannie Cocroft, Michael Mahern, Annie Williams and Gerald Ludd.





Haitian poet Assotto Saint, author of *Risin' to the Love We Need*, *New Love Song* and *Stations*, read from his works at the Gallery Theater in Barnsdall Park Oct. 14 and at A Different Light Oct. 17. The celebrated performance artist excerpted his new book, *Nations*, as well as his *Other Countries*, *Black Gay Voices* and *Triple Trouble*. Over 200 people attended the Barnsdall reading, sponsored by Words Project for AIDS.

## Brownlie Report to Air

LOS ANGELES—Five residents of the Brownlie Hospice are the central focus of Emmy-winning producer Nancy Salter's *KCET Journal* report, "Living the Last Days." The one-hour program airs in Los Angeles Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 19 at 10 p.m. on channel 28. It will be aired nationally early next year.

Brownlie Hospice, named for Chris Brownlie, a gay political activist and lover of Phill Wilson, a co-chair of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, is located in the hills of Elysian Park near downtown Los Angeles. With 25 beds, a staff of 40, and many volunteers, Brownlie Hospice aims to provide a compassionate and comfortable environment for its residents, at a fraction of the cost of hospital care. "Living the Last Days" follows the daily activities of staff members and residents.

## People of Color Raise \$

LOS ANGELES—A Silverlake garage sale on Oct. 22 was the first joint AIDS fundraiser by Los Angeles black, Latino and Asian lesbian and gays. The sale raised funds and attention for the Tijuana AIDS organization (OST), one of the largest AIDS service organizations in Latin America.

The informal group of activists from the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, VIVA, Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos, and the Gay Asian Rap, contributed clothing, computer supplies and goods desperately needed in Mexico.

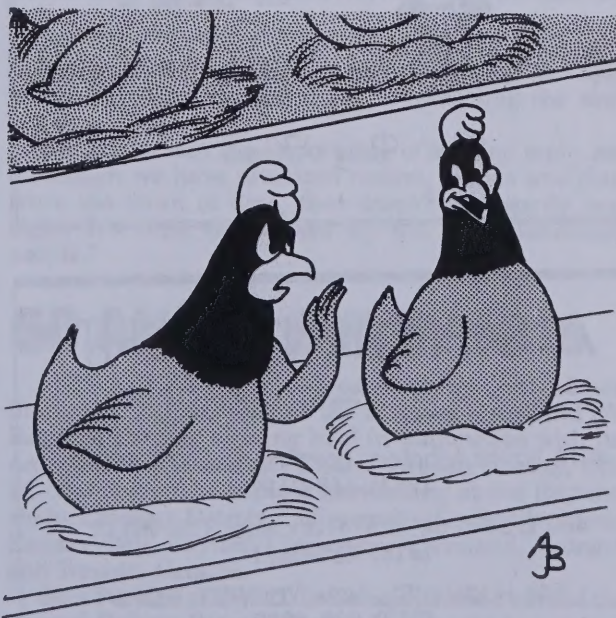
Related charitable events include a tea dance sponsored by Gay Asian Rap Nov. 4 at West Hollywood Park and a non-perishable food drive hosted by A Different Light Bookstore in Silverlake from Thanksgiving through Christmas.

The network of groups plans to hold fundraisers in 1990 for the Township AIDS Project in Soweto, South Africa, the international Asian Lesbian and Gay Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, and Third World AIDS organizations affected by the Oct. 17 earthquake in Northern California.

## 3 Organizations to Fund S. African Gay Center

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Three national gay groups from Sweden, Norway and Denmark have pledged 100 British pounds a month for three years toward the costs of a lesbian and gay community center located in Soweto. The center, to be administered by the Rand Gay Organization (RGO), would deliver social and counseling services, as well as provide a meeting place for interested lesbian and gay groups.

Founded in 1986, RGO is an activist group in South Africa oriented to uniting blacks, fighting discrimination, working for gay liberation and offering social and welfare services. The organization has about 400 members, both black and white. The chair of RGO is Alfred Machela.



"I don't know why they think we enjoy laying these things. I'd rather be out crowing, myself."



# \$800,000

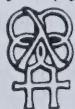
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## **BGLLF Elects Officers; Looks to Atlanta Meet**

LOS ANGELES—In the midst of preparing for its third national conference, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum has selected officers for the coming year. The six lesbians and gay men constitute the group's board of directors.

Ruth Waters and Phill Wilson were named co-chairs. Other officers include Leonard Simon, secretary; Juan Lombard, treasurer; Shelia Rice, director of development; and Anita Barnes, outreach director.

The new board, along with dozens of volunteers are busy planning the program for the conference slated to take place February 16-19 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, Ga. Organizers are accepting proposals for the conference's two days of workshop sessions, as well as artwork for an exhibition which will be mounted at the site.

The conference will open with a health institute that will focus on three areas: AIDS, chemical dependency and women's health. The latter will itself be divided into three components: sexuality, aging and basic health. Workshop proposals by black lesbians are currently being accepted for the health institute.

The BGLLF is located at 3924 W. Sunset Blvd. #1, Los Angeles, Calif. 90029. Their phone number is 213-66-5495.

## **Black Lesbian Press to Publish Wedding Book**

TURLOCK, Calif.—WIM Publications, a black-owned, lesbian-feminist publishing company, is seeking contributions for its *Lesbian and Gay Wedding Book*, a non-fiction pictorial that will document same-sex unions. The work is scheduled to be published in the early spring of 1990, but a company spokesperson says the book will not go to press until a good cross-section of the community's multi-racial and multi-cultural wedding ceremonies has been assembled.

The company has invited couples to submit photographs of their ceremonies, either black and white or color, along with a 500- to 1000-word description of their love story and decision to commit their vows. Subject to negotiation, contributors will receive a fee or a percentage of book sales. Guidelines and further information is available from Dr. SDiane Bogus, WIM Publications, 3601 Crowell Rd. #100, Turlock, Calif. 95380. Their telephone number is 209-667-0966.

## **AIDS Project to Target Black, Latina Women**

LOS ANGELES—The Minority AIDS Project (MAP) announced the hiring of Veronica Flores, a former community outreach worker for the Women and AIDS Risk Network, as an AIDS education specialist for its "Say Sister" project, which targets black and Latina heterosexual and bisexual women with multiple sex partners.

Flores, who is fluent in English and Spanish, has been actively involved with the efforts of Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos to establish an AIDS agency to address the specific needs of the Latino community and serves on the AIDS Advisory Council. She was co-chair of the Lesbian and Gay International People of Color Conference held in Los Angeles in 1986, and maintains her political involvement within the people of color community.



# BWMT Founder Michael Smith Passes in Atlanta

ATLANTA—Michael John Smith, the founder of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (BWMT), died Sept. 20 from complications related to AIDS. Memorial services will be held Nov. 18 at 3 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church in San Francisco.

Smith organized BWMT in San Francisco in 1980 in an effort to fight racism in the bars and in the gay community. Within a year there were several other chapters across the country. The association now has 20 chapters across the U.S. and two international affiliates.

"BWMT surpassed Michael's wildest dreams," said Michael Warner, the group's current white national co-chair.

Warner described Smith as never being content. "Contented people make no changes," he said. "Michael realized that maximizing differences does not mean 'us versus them.' It is not a call for separatism. He knew that gay people need to undertake a radical process of self-discovery that starts with what is inside of us."

Smith, a California native who moved to Atlanta in June of this year, held a B.A. in music from the University of San Francisco and an M.F.A. in music from Harvard University. Most recently, however, he was employed as a stockbroker.

"I admired Michael a lot because he was always willing to fight for what he believed in," said John Teamer, BWMT's current black national co-chair, who had known Smith for over 15 years. "He was one of those people who gave all of himself to whatever he did and to the people he cared about."

In addition to organizing BWMT, Smith edited the group's *Quarterly Magazine*, first published in 1980. Three years later, he edited the anthology, *Black Men/White Men*. He compiled *Colorful People and Places*, a guide for Third World lesbians and gays to bars and organizations the same year, and was in the process of revising it at the time of his death.

Smith's last literary effort was a musical, *The Book of Malcolm*, which will be produced in San Francisco later this year.

Smith is survived by his mother, Doris Kramer Smith; brother, Pat Smith; and sister, Maureen Smith Fernargo.

## D.C. AIDS Group Opens

By Belinda Rochelle

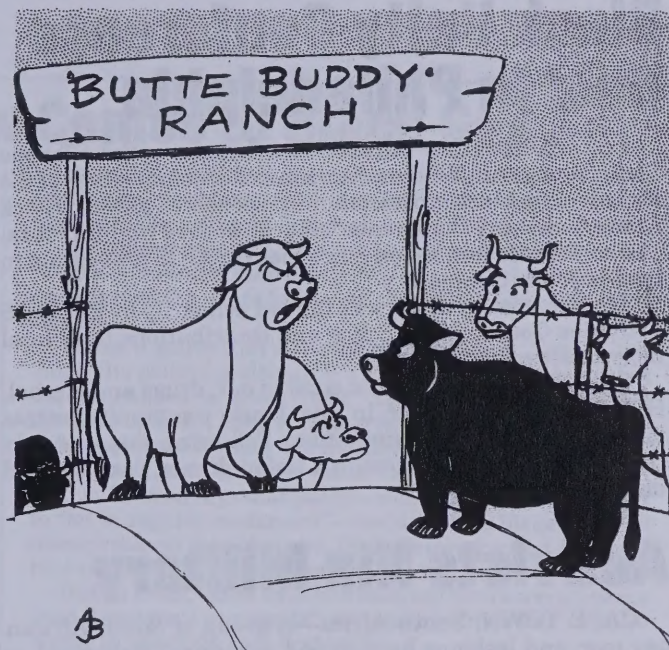
WASHINGTON—Impact, an AIDS outreach program directed specifically to men of color opened its doors in the District recently. The organization is the first in the Washington area to focus primarily on the needs of black and Hispanic men living with AIDS, or who have tested positive for HIV. Impact is funded by grants from the city.

The latest CDC figures reveal that Washington, D.C. ranks sixth in metropolitan-area AIDS cases. Over 3,000 people have been diagnosed with AIDS in the District.

## ILGA Gets 2 New Groups

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—Two new gay groups from South Africa have joined the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA).

The African Gay Association in Cape Town and the umbrella organization for anti-apartheid groups, the Congress of Pink Democrats, are part of a "twin group" arrangement in which an experienced and financially solvent group pays the ILGA membership fees for a new group. The groups also exchange information about their activities and culture.



## New Rap Group Debuts

LOS ANGELES—With the topic, "Racism, sexism, classism: Where do we draw the line?" Antonio Le Mons and Gregg Smith kick off the Rap of LYFF (Let Your Feelings Flow), a new co-sexual, interracial discussion group sponsored by Unity Fellowship Church. The initial meeting will take place Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. and meetings will be held every 2nd and 4th Sundays thereafter.

"Self-confidence, respect and love are the most vital elements for human to possess," says Le Mons. "I'm hoping through our meeting and discussing we can help people realize they do count, while building a true sense of worth. Until people start to value themselves, how can we expect them to value one another?"

The Rap of LYFF is committed to offering a safe space for those interested in exchanging ideas, feelings and opinions with a diverse group of people representing the world in which we live.

Smith stresses the importance of the rap topic, saying, "Although we have practiced racism, sexism and classism since the dawn of time, that doesn't necessarily make it right. It's time we worked on the non-classification of people."

## 60 Attend BWMT Fete

MILWAUKEE—Over 60 people heard the Honorable Stanley A. Miller speak at the Midwest/Heartland BWMT Regional chapter meeting held in conjunction with its 9th Anniversary Celebration Friday through Sunday, Oct. 20-22. The Regional Chapters networking at the Regional include: Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Louisville, Memphis, Kansas City, Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Youngstown and Toronto, Canada.

Jack Perkins of BWMT/Indianapolis was awarded the 5th Annual Delbert Pascavis Spirit Award, which goes to a National BWMT member whose spirit and congeniality has enabled new comers, members and friends to feel part of the BWMT family.



## Black Unity Conference Held in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA—African-American gay activist Tyrone Smith, along with William Jackson and other members of the Philadelphia black gay community sponsored a local "Black Awareness Unity Conference" Aug. 26 at the Franklin Plaza. The conference focused on strategies for AIDS prevention in the black gay community.

The community effort was funded primarily by the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office and contributions from local individuals and businesses.

Workshop topics included coming out, drugs and alcohol, HIV high-risk behavior in the black community, stress management and discrimination. Following the assembly there was a splash party with a buffet dinner, cash bar and disco by the pool.

## Activists Nix Military

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—A group of South African gay men and lesbians have joined a national movement to end the conscription of whites into the South African Defense Forces (SADF) because the military is used primarily to defend apartheid. The Organization of Lesbian & Gay Activists (OLGA) has made the "End Military Conscription Campaign" their main project.

Ivan Toms, an OLGA member and SADF medical doctor for nine years, was recently sentenced to 630 days imprisonment for refusing to serve further citing military support of apartheid as the reason.

## Diane Watson Asks for More State AIDS Dollars

SACRAMENTO—The recent George Washington University study which concludes that California leads America in state-spending on AIDS is dangerously deceptive, contends State Sen. Diane E. Watson (D-Los Angeles). As chairperson of the Senate's Health and Human Services Committee and as member of the Senate Budget and fiscal Review Subcommittee, Sen. Watson insists that the state is not doing enough in the war against AIDS.

"It is deceptive to talk about AIDS spending on a per state basis," she said. "While California may spend more total dollars than other states, it also has the second highest incidence of AIDS and the largest population. Although New York has a higher percentage of persons infected with the AIDS virus, California has 10 million more people than New York. To compare expenditures state-by-state, you must look at per capita AIDS spending. On that basis, the state of California is spending even less than the District of Columbia or Hawaii."

Moreover, California directs the bulk of its funding toward education and testing.

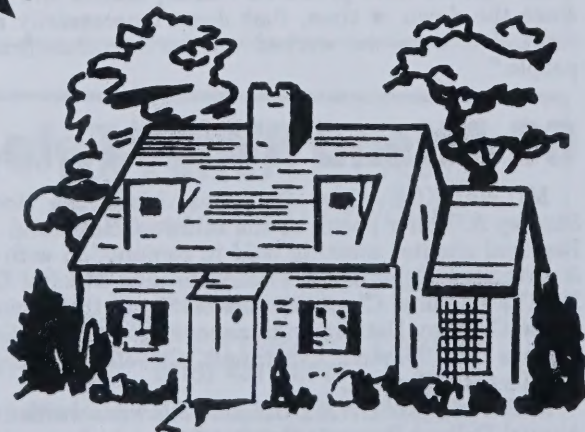
"It isn't just how much you spend, but how you spend it. California currently allocates the bulk of its funding toward education and testing. This is largely directed at containing AIDS among already infected populations, such as gay men, minorities and IV drug users. We don't spend nearly enough on treatment and care of those already infected," said Watson. "The Governor may be pleased with our expenditures, but I am not. All lives are equally valuable, both those of persons with AIDS and those at risk."

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LESLIE BURKE RN, MPH, JD — DIRECTOR



# Straight White Crowd Now Comes to Black Gay Bar

By Alan Smithee

LOS ANGELES—The Horizon, for years a fixture in the black gay community now has a lighter, straighter look on Friday nights. Promoter and host Bret Witke travels to the Horizon on Fridays, bringing with him a largely white crowd of party people eager to frolic among African-American gay and bisexual men.

The first night that Witke was host saw a line of fashion models, photographers, young actors and writers outside the door and rows of fancy cars double-parked three deep on a city street out of service due to road construction. "There were BMWs, Mercedeses and every top car except Rolls Royce," according to Bruce W. Johnson, the club's public relations manager.

Apparently the mostly male crowd that these cars held had a good time that first Oct. 6 because on the Fridays that followed, the club was equally as packed. Johnson describes the group as "the Hollywood set." Madonna's manager was there, he says, though the singer herself has yet to make an appearance.

Johnson went on: "And I can say this. I've been in business a long time, and I have never seen a bunch of people that came in and conducted themselves so nice. No problems. And they tipped us like crazy."

Promoting the club in the straight, white community as a trendy place to party was Witke's idea. The veteran of a number of clubs including Au Petit Cafe, Boys and Girls, Your Needs Met, and most recently, B.C., Witke came to the Horizon to dance one night when the idea hit him. He sought out Louis Offlee, the owner of the Horizon, and a deal was struck. Offlee is pleased with the increase in business, calling these the best Friday nights he's had in three years.

But not everyone is happy with the changes. And that first night, some folks weren't very tactful about letting their opinions be known. One black patron opened the Horizon door, let out a scream and hollered, "What is this shit?"

Another patron waxed metaphorical. "It was the last oasis in the desert. We don't have anything left," said Terry Allen, a frequent Horizon patron. "You know you used to be safe at home. But there's no longer an oasis there. They've built a condominium."

The next morning, BLK received several phone calls from anxious readers who wanted to make sure we knew about "what had happened."

But Johnson sees the new crowd as just good business. "We've been pushing and fighting and trying everything to get them [black patrons] in here [on Friday nights]. We've tried everything and they wouldn't come. Witke told us he could bring some clientele. We didn't even ask him if they were going to be white, green, purple or orange. He just said he could bring us some clientele from 'the Hollywood set' and get \$10 a head," he said.

"They handled themselves with the utmost tact and class even though they knew it was a black club. But we had black people who came in and showed their ass when they came in and saw white people there. It made me feel kind of bad," Johnson continued.

"Just like they're mad at Jewel [Williams, owner of the Catch One Disco]. They say she's turning her club white," he said. "Jewel is not turning her club white. Jewel is open to the general public. And the same way here. We've got something to offer and if white people like it, fine."

"We're a black club if that's what you want to classify us as, but we're open to the general public. How do you get around that? How do you do it? Then you're discriminating. You can't. You can't do it. It's against the law," Johnson said.

But legal and social considerations aside, Offlee is con-

cerned with profitability. "If they wanted it to stay black where were the blacks on Friday night when sometimes we have only 30 or 40 people the whole night?" he asked.

In an attempt to smooth over the problems, the club instituted a differential door policy. "We let the black folks in free and charged the white folks. And people still bitched," Johnson said.

It was a policy that satisfied almost no one. Terry Allen found the policy insulting. "It's the same type of thing that used to happen in white clubs," he said. "People would ask for three different I.D.s or charge different rates. It's like the old days when we had Wednesday 'black night' at Studio One. That's what comes to mind. It's just as offensive."

But Johnson says that policy—which he called an attempt to "let in regular customers"—besides being illegal, caused more problems than it solved. In the future, he said, "Anyone that comes through that door Friday will be charged."

But all in all, Offlee says he's received "more compliments than derogatory comments" particularly from the "15 or 20 blacks in the club" that first night.

Offlee stressed that the Horizon, which is housed in a small, nondescript building on West Washington Blvd., has not been rented out. He called Witke, who is white and does not admit to being gay, an independent contractor with a financial interest in making sure Friday nights are successful. Witke is assisted by Michelle MacElroy, a partner.

Does Johnson think his new Friday night patrons will continue to pack the club? "Nothing good lasts forever," he said.

## Urban League Supports San Diego Rights Law

SAN DIEGO—San Diego's *Update* reports that the Urban League, one of this city's most powerful and influential African-American community organizations, has endorsed the proposed ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation that will soon be introduced by City Council Members Gloria McColl and Wes Pratt.

"The Urban League is aware of the many inequities that exist in this field. Our mission is to ensure that blacks and others have every opportunity to cultivate and exercise their human potential to the fullest extent on a par with all standards of American life," wrote League President C. Terry Whitesides in his endorsement letter to the Human Dignity Ordinance Task Force.

"I applaud your efforts in this sphere. I add the Urban League of San Diego to your list of supporters," he added.

Task Force member Nicole Ramirez-Murray called the endorsement "significant in our efforts to make this ordinance the basic Civil Rights issue it is." The Task Force is beginning a serious outreach to people of color and to religious, labor, political, business, and ethnic organizations.

## Openly Gay Librarian Publishes African Book

Openly gay librarian Glenn L. Sitzman, who served in the national libraries of Nigeria and Uganda, has published a 500-page book, *African Libraries*, that provides comprehensive information on the history and current situations of libraries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The book, published by Scarecrow Press, includes factual information about the populations of 46 African countries.



## Carl Bean Backs MCC

LOS ANGELES—Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles (MCC) has announced that its pastor, the Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, is spearheading a drive to raise \$400,000 in emergency funds. Wilson staged a water fast to call attention to the urgency of the financial crisis facing the congregation.

In August 1987, the congregation sold its downtown Los Angeles building to buy one of the area's historic landmarks in Culver City. But because MCC ministers to a primarily gay and lesbian congregation, traditional banks and lenders refused them financing, according to Richard Davis, treasurer of the board of directors. Consequently, he said, the church was forced to borrow money at "outrageous interest and points. Our backs are to the wall."

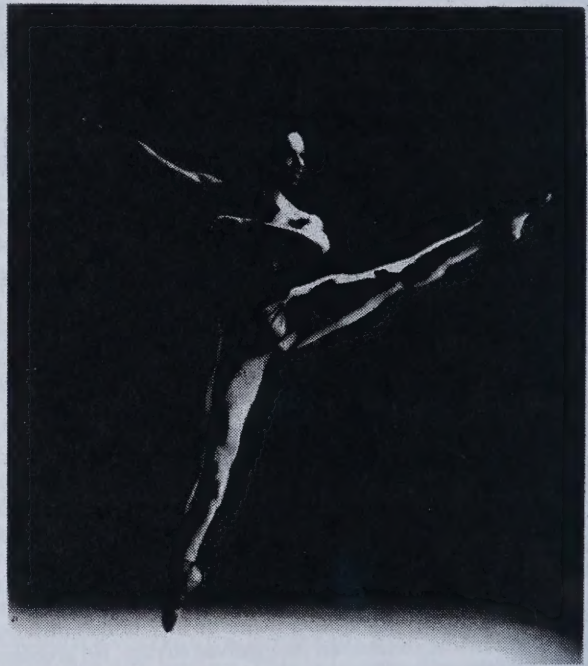
"We are faced with an impending financial crisis which could destroy this church and its special ministries as they are now known. Cost overruns and delays have pushed the project over budget by 50 percent," Davis said.

Rev. Carl Bean, himself an MCC member before founding Unity Fellowship Church, has voiced concern and support for Rev. Wilson and the church. Bean said "Rev. Nancy Wilson today embodies a true faith that she lives out every day of her life. She has certainly been there for me throughout my ministry in a way no one else has."

"She is a shining example of saints on earth," Bean said, "one who is willing to give her life to a cause she believes in."

## ACLU Sues CTA Over Ads

CHICAGO—The American Civil Liberties Union has sued the Chicago Transit Authority in federal court, saying the CTA arbitrarily rejected an HIV-prevention ad as too explicit. The class-action suit said the ban violated the rights of the Kupon Network, Chicago's only organization devoted entirely to educating blacks about AIDS.



Christopher Boatwright

## Bill Jones Honors Lover with Dance at Festival

LOS ANGELES—African-American choreographers, scholars and writers from across the country will gather in Los Angeles Nov. 16-19 to perform their creations at the "Black Choreographers Moving Towards the 21st Century" National Dance Festival.

This three-day event will feature the works of ten well-known choreographers. Bill T. Jones of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Dance & Company will present the West Coast premiere of *Forsythia*. The piece is a tribute to his lover and company co-founder Arnie Zane who died of AIDS in March 1988.

*Forsythia* will be performed by Jones and principal dancer Arthur Aviles at the UCLA Wadsworth Theater on Nov. 16-19 at 8 p.m.

The now prominent company founded by Jones and Zane after 11 years of working as a duet, is known for its eloquent and intensely dramatic dances. The dancers have been drawn from varied backgrounds ranging from athletics to acting to classical ballet to Irish step-dancing.

Other dance companies that will participate in the "Black Choreographers Moving Towards the 21st Century" National Dance Festival include New York's Urban Bush Women, Donald Byrd/The Group, Lula Washington's Los Angeles Contemporary Dance Theatre, Oakland's Dimensions Dance Theater, San Francisco's Lines Dance Company with guest artist Christopher Boatright of the San Francisco Ballet, Spotted Leopard Dance Company and Reno's L. Martina Young.

## Group Forms in Ghana

NKAWKAW, Ghana—With 14 core members, a new gay rights group is being formed in Nkawkaw, Ghana. Calling itself simply, the Gay Liberation Group (GLG) of Nkawkaw, Ghana, its members meet secretly for fear of government reprisal. The group can be contacted by writing Eric Owusu Agyeman, Secretary, GLG, Box 282, Nkawkaw E/R, Ghana.



The politically correct kitchen.



## Los Angeles People of Color Fete Come Out Day

LOS ANGELES—The second annual commemoration of National Coming Out Day was celebrated at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center (GLCSC) on Oct. 11 with a full day of activities planned by and for people of color.

Several hundred lesbians and gay men enjoyed the festivities, marking the anniversary of the 1987 march on Washington.

The celebration was sponsored by the People of Color Coalition and the Multi-Ethnic Exchange Program of the GLCSC in their premiere event open to the community. Members of VIVA, the lesbian and gay Latino arts organization provided bilingual dance, theatre, poetry and coming out letters. Debra Johnson hosted a parade of community leaders and ordinary folk who each stepped up to the microphone to give their coming out stories, including Catch One Disco owner Jewel Williams and her lover, Rue Thaïs.

The events were praised by GLCSC board member Dennis Odums as "very inspirational, to have a stream of people of color, who share their experiences on coming out. It was a marvelous event."

## Medina Moves to CDC

ATLANTA—Venus Medina, formerly associate for field resources in the minority affairs program at the National AIDS Network (NAN), has accepted a position as an AIDS education specialist with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. In her new position, she will be responsible for working with community-based AIDS service organizations around the country involved in CDC-sponsored programs and activities.

During her tenure at NAN, Medina provided technical assistance to numerous AIDS service organizations in various stages of development around the country. She became a national leader in the effort to raise and respond to issues related to women and AIDS, especially women of color, who are disproportionately affected by the disease. Her activism in women's issues led to her being invited to join the board of directors of the Women's AIDS Network.

## World Meet Set for U.K.

LONDON—The next International Lesbian and Gay People of Colour Conference, held every two years, will take place in London in 1990. Planning meetings are held every six weeks at 40 Theobald's Rd., London WC1.

## Community Survives EQ

*Continued from page 15*

huge budget deficit. The San Francisco fiscal situation had been further complicated by sloth, hesitancy and refusal by the state and federal governments to maintain funding at a consistent level, or even to fund certain programs at all.

Although exact figures were not available at press time in terms of actual damage to buildings housing AIDS-related organizations, the headquarters of the San Francisco Health Department, which houses the offices that coordinate AIDS service providers, suffered significant damage.

One AIDS fundraiser said, "This is the ultimate excuse for even well-meaning straights not to have the time or money to spend on AIDS."

## Latino Tribute Helps Build AIDS Awareness

LOS ANGELES—The Minority AIDS Project is among 14 community-based AIDS service organizations co-sponsoring the "El Dia de Los Muertos" (Day of the Dead) Celebration which commences with a Catholic mass at 2 p.m. Nov. 2 at Our Queen of Angels Church, 100 W. Sunset Blvd. The one-hour mass will be followed by a 2.5 mile procession to Holtenbeck Park in Boyle Heights where a community health fair will disseminate AIDS education, an Aztec dance troupe "Xipe Totec" will perform, and the creation of a community altar to those who have died from AIDS will be assembled.

"The day is a way for people to pay respect to those who have passed away from AIDS and to celebrate those who are living with AIDS and symptomatic HIV disease," said Racquel Salinas, a health educator and community outreach coordinator at AIDS Project Los Angeles. "It is also a way to encourage AIDS enlightenment to the Latino community through a traditional holiday."

In the Latin American culture, it is traditionally believed that on El Dia de Los Muertos, deceased loved ones can return for a familial visit. It recognizes life and death as one cycle and an integral part of nature. Deceased relatives and friends are honored by preparing altars in the home or at the grave site. Such altars are usually decorated with photos, flowers, candles, candies, fruits and the deceased person's favorite foods or artifacts.

## D.C. Cites Craig Harris

*By John H. Osborne III*

WASHINGTON—The Washington, D.C. Council approved a "Craig G. Harris Recognition Resolution" last month lauding the former D.C. gay activist for "his outstanding contribution" to the AIDS education efforts in the District according to the story that appeared in the *Washington Blade*.

The resolution, passed June 14, cited many of Harris's accomplishments in AIDS education over the past five years, especially in programs directed toward minority groups.

As AIDS conference coordinator for the National Coalition of Black Lesbian and Gays in 1986, Harris planned and promoted the first national conference on AIDS in the black community. He was also a founding member of the National Minority AIDS Council and a health education and media specialist with the Spectrum AIDS Education Project.

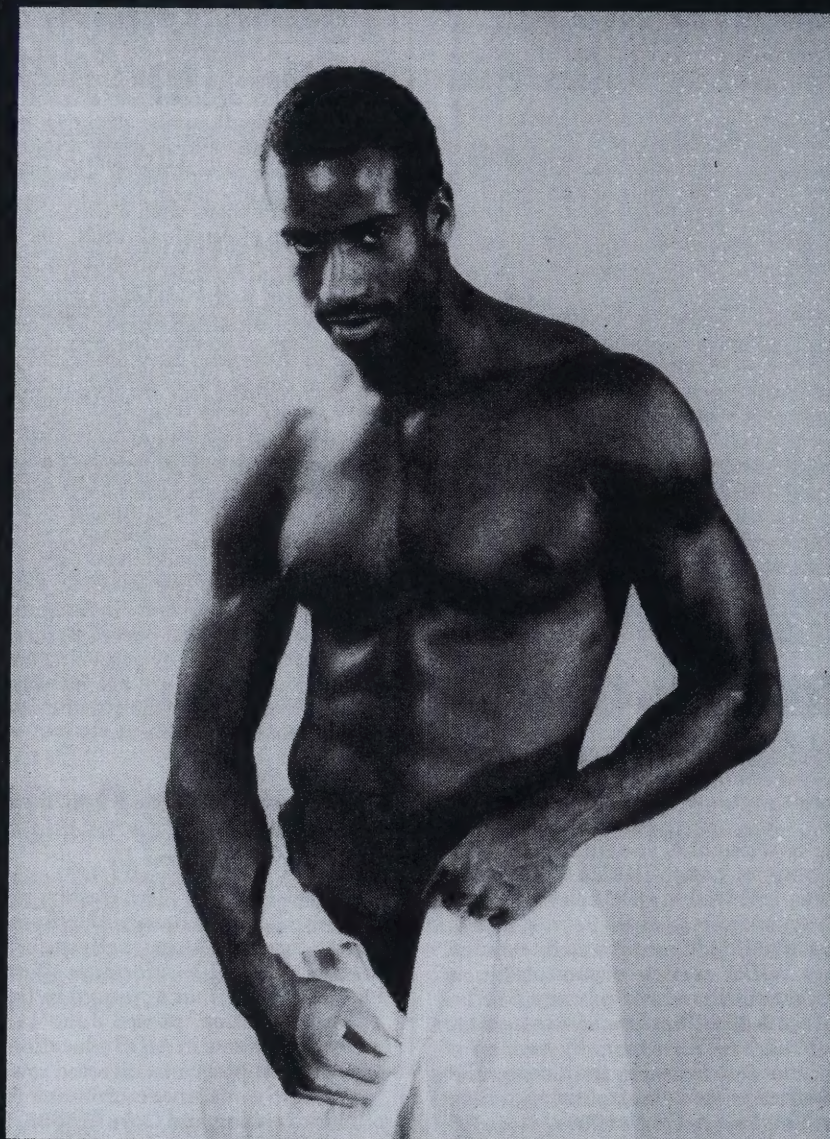
Harris currently lives in New York. He is coordinator of AIDS prevention programs for the Gay Men's Health Crisis, where he manages programs for gay and bisexual men and for minority communities.

## BLK VEIL

GEORGE G. BONIN, III

Funeral services were held Oct. 14 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Lafayette, La., for George G. Bonin, III, 30, who died in his Los Angeles, Calif., residence earlier in the month. He was employed by Software Computer Company in Chatsworth, Calif. Survivors include his father, George Bonin, Jr.; mother, Betsy R. Bonin; four sisters and one brother.





# the Body Black Calendar 1990

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# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

Another black gay bar has opened on Lexington in Baltimore giving that city the distinction of having three black gay bars in one block. Can any other town top that? The new one, located at 608 W. Lexington St., is called **Our Place**. On the weekend, the children practically take over the area as if it were some enormous black gay shopping mall. (Did we say *shopping*?) Actually it's been that way since this year's Gay Pride Day when **Jeff's Place** and **Tikki's**, the other two bars on the block, shut down the street for a block party after the main festival was over. *That* was a party to remember—warm and friendly—kind of like a family reunion. But now, without city permission to congregate in the street, this area gets lots of Police attention. Although it's not a residential area, Baltimore's finest, nevertheless, make sure no loitering takes place and insure quick dispersal after the bars close at 2 a.m....

**Chris Brownlie**, **Phill Wilson's** lover, is recovering from a stroke that left him momentarily blinded. **Phill** is head of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum... In Long Beach, California, a select panel will tell personal stories of their experiences with extraterrestrials at the November 12 meeting of the **Space Club**. The group meets regularly at the local gay community center on the first and third Sundays. One participant claims to have seen UFOs land in Long Beach... **Michelle Gidden** has joined the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York as a receptionist...

Wet Dream Dept. (Men Only Division): See page 141 of the October 1989 issue of **Ebony**... But if you'd like to see your men live with every excuse to wear shorts or have their shirts off in the context of a funny play that turns tragic, see **Jonin'** at the Harman Avenue Theater in Los Angeles. In this tale of frat life at a black college—a combination of **Animal House** and **School Daze** according to the show's producers—one character is openly gay and another is unexpectedly bisexual. The cast includes **Kristoff St. John**, **Craig Thomas**, **Dawn Comer**, **Donald Willis**, **Eugene Williams**, **Greg Travis**, **Ronald Lawrence**, **Dwight Donaldson**, **Rugg Williams** and **Diana Grandy**. By the way, be sure and sit on the left side of the theater...

Those of you who caught the "Coming Out Day" edition of the **Oprah Winfrey Show** saw L.A.'s own black gay activist, **Xavier Hall**—known for her bubbling personality (remember her booth at the Los Angeles and Long Beach Gay Pride celebrations?)—spilling the beans on how we identify fellow fraternity members. Girl, hush... The show also featured a young black gay man from Chicago named **Russell** who shared his coming out experience with all of America. Talk about f-i-n-e! We'll tell you a coming out (and going in) experience we'd like to share with **Russell**... Thank You, but No Thank You Dept.: During the show, **Oprah** was asked if she cared to discuss the sexual aspects of homosexuality. She gasped slightly and said, "Oh, no. I want to keep my television license."...

Is a little bar on Washington Blvd. in L.A., trying to one up a great big one on Pico? Not only have yards of yuppies been imported for Friday night fun, but a new group of b'guppies seems to have discovered the place as well. But **Louis Offee**, owner of the suddenly-fashionable **Horizon**, doesn't mind. According to him, there really wasn't much of a Friday crowd before, and the new folks have more disposable income. "Keep those drinks coming," he says... By the way, **Laverne Lamore** is passing around the basket there

on Sundays and Wednesdays for the **Minority AIDS Project**. Maybe someone ought to do it on Fridays... And speaking of **MAP**, the grand salute to **Gentlemen Concerned** engineered by **MAP's Paul Davis** turned out to be one of the most tasteful events in **MAP's** history. We've got to hand it to you **Paul**. We had no idea... Meanwhile, on the south side of town, **Joe Beasley**, owner of the **Caper Room**, is proving **Adam Smith** right. With the discontent in some quarters over the changes going on around town, this sharp businessman is positioning himself to scoop up the home crowd. In recent weeks, Sunday night has been the night to go. When we were last there, the DJ was pumpin' and the crowd was jumpin' to **Lady Aretha** and her colleagues of old...

The **Brothers of Fellowship of Unity Fellowship Church** pulled off their \$50 dollar a plate Event with coordinator **Alex Jones** (who rushed off to Jamaica afterwards) coming out in leather and (get ready for this!) black nylons and (now *really* get ready for this!) bleached blond hair. **Annie Lennox** should have looked as good... Kudos to those who handled the music, food and videos. But bring me the head of the person who decided to have a fashion show with no commentator... Flash! **Rev. Carl Bean** and **Jewel Williams** shared a table... **Judy Jones** did her number (appearing to have had a number too many)... **Wallace Johnson** ex of Washington, D.C. debuted with a group called **Softnotes** singing, "That's What Friends Are For"...

The week prior to the brothers, the **Sisters of Love** did a benefit for **Rue's House**. If the house is run anything like **Renee Scott** sings, the sky's the limit... We've yet to find an all-black (or even mostly black) bar in San Diego. Apparently "half and half" on Saturday nights at **Peacock Alley** is the best one can do... While you're digging into those pockets for bar \$\$, dig a little deeper and send some \$\$ to the Bay Area to help with earthquake relief... **ACT-UP**, the group that reminds us that gay activism is more than \$100-a-plate dinners, wants to hear from individuals who have experienced any AIDS or HIV-related problems with insurance companies. They are particularly interested in hearing from **Prudential** policyholders. Mum's the word on all replies, of course. Write Box 26601, L.A. 90026 or call **Richard** 213-838-3260, or **Jake** 213-851-2492 or **Neil** 213-650-7590...

Finally... What famous female black singer that everyone knows is a member of the family, has been seen around Hollywood with another famous black singer who likes to take his shirt off in his videos? We don't yet have the word on the shirtless one, only rumors. But we wonder if this dating means anything. Does it? Does it?



The cast of **Jonin'** currently at the Harman Avenue Theater.



# BLK MARKET

## ANNOUNCEMENTES

Registry contains hundreds of photos of available gay men in Southern California and information on contacting them. We're currently accepting photos for our next edition. For a free application, write or call today. Registry Publications, 1317 N. San Fernando Blvd. #301, Burbank, CA 91504. 818-566-3560. (13)

## SERVICES

Looking for employment? Let us help you. D&D Professionals is a complete personnel placement service specializing in minority placements, both permanent and temporary. D&D Professionals was founded by two black men who understand the plight of the black employment seeker. We would like to extend our services at no charge to you. For your next positive work experience, call the professionals at D&D. 213-460-6369. P.S. If you're a business owner or operator and need qualified employees, we encourage you to also try our professionals. (12)

Xcelivision. Black skin care. Diet control. Massage therapy. Physical/mental exercises. 40-page work booklet \$10. Call Maleko 213-465-2551. (16)

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Gay black male seeking general house work. Everything but windows. Smile. Good references. Honest, hard worker. Reasonable. \$30 up a day. Call anytime, day or night. 213-622-9635. Charles Thomas. (11)

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Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (12)

Amazing 3-D Camera. Our independent reps are making \$10-30,000 per month. It's so easy. There's no competition as it's a one-of-kind camera that uses standard 35mm film. Part-time or full-time. Stop being financially crippled! Call Alex now! 213-465-8583. (14)

Community Outreach Worker. Four needed. Part-time. Reports to the Coordinator of the "Say Sister" Project. Conduct open "drop-in" groups, structure closed groups and individual coun-

seling for black and Latina heretosexual and bisexual women with multiple partners, serve as team member for the site intervention team, make community presentations to women at risk, provide transportation for targeted women when needed, attend weekly staff meetings. Apply before November 10 at 5:30 p.m. to Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036 or call 213-936-4949. An equal opportunity employer M/F. (12)

News Writer. Must be accurate and willing to write "just the facts." Not looking for an investigative journalist, but someone to cover the routine but often interesting events in our community. If this sounds like you, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (12)

Office work you can do at home. BLK needs helpers. If you like BLK and want to make sure it stays around, and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call Frank Hall at 213-410-0808. Or write him at BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (12)

Palm Springs Houseman. Older white man wants versatile houseman. Cook, gardener, driver, masseur, handyman. Live-in plus salary. Need references. Jack, Box 322, Suite 109, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046 (12)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Step†, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

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Dedicated, persistent, objective, loving, self-confident, determined, result-oriented, stable-minded, caring, and focused: "The Family Man." The Family is an organization founded to generate capital for the purposes of supporting the profitable business ideas of its members, contributing to worthy community organizations, and backing young people who exhibit promise as entrepreneurs or scholars. The Family is now open for limited membership. If you have what it takes to make a difference, it's time you joined The Family... For more information, call The Bottom Line MCG at 213-223-4314. (12)

Songwriters. Songwriters. Singer/composer looking for album material. 213-739-3945. (12)

Black lesbian and gay poetry magazine accepting submissions. Send with SASE to Ayofemi Stowe Folan or Mark Haile, Kuumba, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. (TF)

Black Lace, the first African-American lesbian erotic magazine, desires women interested in nude modeling. You could be featured in our very first issue! Contact Alycee at 213-410-0808. (TF)

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also accepted. Send with SASE to Revon Kyle Banneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

## PLACES TO LIVE

Black gay man looking for roommate to share 3-bedroom house. \$375 per month including utilities. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer. Large backyard. 213-274-3398. Ask for Paul. (12)

Young professional male seeks same to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment in North Inglewood. Fully carpeted. Cable TV. Available November 1, 1989. Move in requires first, last and one month's security. 213-419-4249. (14)

## FOR SALE

AIDS is biological warfare. Call 213-977-0901. (14)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

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Certified massage by white 24 year old. In-calls 24 hours. Late evenings best. Put yourself in my hands. Russ. 818-784-6929. (18)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

GWM, 45, 6', Aquarian, very passive teddy-bear, professional, seeks top BM for good times. I like wine, music, reading, swimming and satisfying a masculine guy. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J4A5. 604-263-3991 (TF)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

Escape danger, mediocrity and oppression into South Texas youth cooperative home offering diversity in entertainment, security, beauty and access to adventure. If you please, write about yourself to Box 475, Big Pine Key, FL 33043. (12)

GWM, 45, seeks GM, any color, for friendship, safe fun, movies, shopping, dance, music (especially Motown). No drugs or smokes. Honest and discreet only. Boxholder, Box 1295, Middletown, CT 06457. (12)

BM, 38, 5'8", 240#, masc., Gr/A-Fr/A/P, HIV-, prof. seeks chubby, HIV- GM for long-term 1-to-1 commitment. Ph/ph, write: Walton, Box 22864, Newark, NJ 07101. (13)

Tall, thin GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (13)

NJ GWM ISO GBM (anywhere) for sexual lover. 609-989-1260. (14)

Attractive, young BM, seeks lover. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (12)

## PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

BM, attractive, masculine, professional, muscular, swimmer's build, 20 y.o., 5'11", 175 lbs., seeks friendship/relationship with similar. Race, age unimportant. Box 28100, Dallas, TX 75228. (12)

GBM seeks correspondence. C. Benford, Ave. I, Greenwood, MS 38930. (14)

Blk couple, 23 & 27, seeks other couple/single for friendship. Other things possible. Send photo. Write to 1315 S. 1st #5, Louisville, KY 40203. (12)

GBM, 28, 5'8", shy, sensuous, moody, strange sense of humor. Love lots of attention. Interested in meeting people. Marc, Box 408931, Chicago, IL 60640. (12)

Chicagoland/Quad Cities man looking for a black college man who is between Chicago and Quad Cities area. Write Mick at Box 1962, Des Plaines, IL 60018 or call 708-956-0006. Go ahead, go for it! (12)

Bi/W/M bodybuilder Robert Jenkins



#855856, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (14)

BM seeks correspondence. R.L. Williams #3725-3-1B, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (14)

WWIL men sought. You hung at least 8+ thick. Travel S.E. WI and Chicago area for passionate Fr/Gr (safe) sex. Mark, Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (14)

Very handsome muscular WM, 31, Box 138-232, Chicago, IL 60613. (14)

Slim WM seeks BMs. Box 4222, East Lansing, MI 48826. 517-484-6505. (13)

## PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

GWM, 26, 5'10", Br/Bl, cute, intelligent, creative, into arts/culture/music, metaphysics, gym, travel seeks muscular/masculine GBM top, 25-35 with similar interests. Photo/phone to: DL, Box 931034, LA 90093. (13)

25, brown-skinned, handsome, submissive male artist seeks young, brown-skinned gentlemen who is passionate, strong, sincere and honest for a long-term, understanding, affectionate and loving relationship with a friend, a lover and a brother. Please send photo and letter to Dame. BLK Mailbox #17. (12)

Black top. Cute white ass. Supportive, watchful wife. Cum. Box 12432, El Cajon, CA 92022-2432. (14)

Attractive, tall, slim, blond, healthy top-man, 32, seeks slim, boyish, sexy bottom. Send picture to Al, Box 15741, North Hollywood 91615. Thanks! (12)

BM, San Diego, 36, HIV+, trim, 7", seeks versatile, hairy, Mid-Eastern/WM. Romance, affection, growth. BLK Mailbox #16. (14)

GBM, 25, seeks relationship. Send picture. Box 1972, Hollywood 90078. (14)

Goodlooking masculine white guy seeks stable, well-endowed black man for discreet, safe friendship. You are basically straight or bi-, but enjoy a goodlooking hung WM servicing your thick dick (uncut a +). You are sincere and all man. So am I. Age, weight unimportant. Discretion assured. 213-281-6998. (12,14)

Discreet? Creative? Experimental? Married? Professional 6'3", WM looking for a close straight-appearing friend for quality times, 25-50. Former 15-year friend transferred. Black/Latin/Mideast. Write Robert Belton, Box 741360, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Indicate how to contact you. Time/phone, etc. (14)

Good-looking blond wants tall healthy GBM with big cock who likes to lie back and be serviced all night. Call Alex 818-896-8890. (13)

Lovely Asian TV seeking dominant black TVs, women and TSs. Use me! Grace R., Suite 114, Box 30, Santee, CA 90271. (12)

Butch bi/BM professional, 30s, 5'5", 149

lbs., gym-oriented, drug-free and safe with eclectic tastes. I'm into art-music-film, seeking fun-loving Asian male. 20s-30s, slim with similar interests. Contact Monte, Box 74-1484, L.A., CA 90004. Photo OK. (12)

Professional black, 30s, masculine, college graduate with fine arts, classical music interests and Sunday afternoon outings seeks same for social/friendship. Write: Box 69A32, West Hollywood, CA 90069. (12)

Black male seeks black or Hispanic into 1-on-1 relationship. I'm 6'3", 215, 30 years old, masculine and endowed. You are sexually open and no hang-ups and seriously want to belong to a man. If this is you, 25-40, black or Hispanic, moustache, over 6 feet tall, masculine, endowed, attractive and really want it seriously, call 213-758-0182. D.C. (14)

GWM seeking friends. 45 (look, act younger), 6'2", 165, blond, blue, want to meet young guys for: travel, camping, biking, movies, M/C riding, etc. Ben 818-785-9865. (12)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern guy, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino guy, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (12)

GWM, 50, 5'11", 155, shaved, FA/GP seeks GBM for a committed relationship. Box 952, Simi, CA 93062. (15)

WM, chubby, 41, G/P-F/A, wants to meet sincere, loving man. Age, looks are not important. Jae. 213-318-1183. (12)

(HIV+) healthy, in-shape, hairy, WM, 36, 5'9", wants to meet masculine, athletic, black mate, 35+. Ron 213-665-1304 (answering machine). (14)

Latin male seeks GBM into alternative music, movies, etc. Possible relationship. Be nice looking and masculine. BLK Mailbox #15. (12)

GWM, 6'1", hung, 170, dom., 53, balding, workout. Occupant, Box 4823, North Hollywood, CA 91617. (14)

Prof. WM, 50, wishes to marry Gr/P. 213-273-7335. (14)

VGDL, GBM, 24, 5'9", 160 passionate, intelligent, successful, independent, seeks sexy, commitment-oriented, Latin man. Must be a non-smoker. 213-851-5036. (13)

Attractive GBM, 33, 5'10", 160, top, interested in meeting other GBM only to age 35 who have muscular or well-defined bodies, serious-minded, fun-loving and bottom, for good times and secret rendezvous. Please respond with picture or phone to BLK Mailbox #14. (13)

Very big, muscular, defined guys sought by good-looking GWM, 6', 175, moustache, hairy chested, 42, nice guy, easy-going, new to area, for friendship and

# NGRA

National  
Gay  
Rights  
Advocates

## Legal Director

National Gay Rights Advocates seeks director for legal program. Strong litigation skills, acts as managing attorney for legal staff. Coordinates cooperating attorneys, public speaking. Develops legislative and advocacy strategies.

## Director of Operations

Senior administrative position to direct personnel and financial management. Assists in budget planning and responsible for all bookkeeping, including accounts payable, payroll & preparation of monthly budget reports. Administers personnel policy & benefits package. Requires excellent accounting, office management, computer, written & verbal skills.

## Assistant Director of Development

Primary responsibilities include the management of direct mail, telemarketing and membership renewal programs. Manages donor data base and coordinates all development budget projections and reports.

## Development Secretary

General clerical support for the development program of NGRA. Excellent writing, typing, phone, computer and report production skills.

Women and minorities are encouraged to apply for all positions.  
Send resume to NGRA, 8901 Melrose Avenue, Suite 200, West Hollywood, CA 90069.



## Erase bad credit.

We may be able to help establish or re-establish your credit or maybe get the loan you need.

By using the *Fair Credit Reporting Act*, the *Fair Credit Billing Act*, the *Fair Debt Collection Act*, the *Equal Credit Opportunity Act*, or the *Truth in Lending Act*, and our ability as credit consultants, we may be able to help you have repossession, tax liens, judgements, late payments, other obsolete, misleading, erroneous or outdated information removed from your credit report.

We also make house calls for a modest fee. And, we can help you get credit cards, car loans, bank loans, establish credit, re-establish credit, with collection agencies.



## Carn Credit Consultants

1848 Redondo Blvd., Box 431158  
Los Angeles, California 90043  
(213) 933-7672



safe, discreet, mutually satisfying meetings. 213-913-0259 until 10 p.m. (13)

MWM seeks educated, financially independent BM with 9" or more for man-to-man action. 818-780-1778. (13)

Bi-BM, 28, 6'1", 175 lbs., college-grad, inexperienced, outgoing, talkative, average looks. Interesting in establishing an unrestricted friendship with bright, witty man, 20-35, G/P, F A/P whose sexuality is part of, not all of, who he is. Appearance is secondary to personality, glasses O.K. Any race, weight in proportion to height. No bars, drugs or smokers. Photo optional, detailed frank letter about yourself and expectations. I'm in Los Angeles. Write Martin. BLK Mailbox #13. (12)

Bi/BM seeks blk top, well-hung. G/P & A/P (me) Box 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., LA, CA 90028. (13)

Hot WM, 39, blond/blue, tan, moustache, wants to meet attractive BM, intelligent, sense of humor. Ph/ph to: Box 8107, Glendale, CA 91224. (14)

Seeking GM, any race, 18-28, under size 30 waist. Must want sincere, lasting, intense, monogamous, sweet, kind, loving, caring relationship with feelings, not material things and muscles. I'm white, 35, stocky, 5'11", 190. I'll send letter, photo. Very educated, warm, multi-talented. Box 71850, LA 90071. (12)

Are you one in a million? If you are: GBM, BB, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user, honest, work for a living, romantic, also interested in the arts, and sincerely looking for a 1-1 relationship, you are one in a million. This attractive Utah GWM, 5'8", 140, 45 years young professional would love to meet/correspond with you. Call collect: Alan, 801-364-2523. (14)

Attractive GBM, 23, 6'0", 180 lbs., relationship material, seeks good-looking GBM. Photo/phone. BLK Mailbox #12. (12)

Attractive Italian wants top, endowed BM. Tom Box 40416, San Diego, CA 92104. (12)

GWM, 46, seeks GBM over 35, bored with working out, bars, dancing, but interested in talks, walks, travel, offbeat restaurants, classical/folk music, sports, for friendship, possible relationship. Write DN, Box 291993, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (12)

Hot New York Rican seeking butch Latinus and mix blacks with thick bichos. Willie. 213-657-2539. (12)

GWM, 39, masculine. Oral/older GBM. Mike. Box 178194, S.D. 92117. (13)

Asiatco callado y serio (52, 5'5", 110 lbs.) busca amigo delgado y duradero. Platicar y acariciar solamente. Chang, Box 76475, LA 90076. (12)

Handsome, muscular black man would like to meet imaginative men of all races for fun, fantasy and friendship. I am 32, 5'10", 170#, honest, with a sense of humor and imagination. Photo and phone to: M.D., Box 57192, Sherman Oaks,

CA 91413. (12)

Commitment: Black male, 38, G/P seeks sincere Gr/A man, 40-55, with old-fashioned values. Like 1-to-1, homelife and nature. Any race. Mel 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (answering service) (18)

Tall blond hunk, seeks boyish-looking top. Don 213-281-6138. (12)

Are you interested in the inside of a man as well as his outward appearance? If so, check me out. I am an attractive BGM, 46 (but look younger), 6', 165 lbs., who is warm, affectionate and understanding. I believe in safe sex (j/o). If you consider yourself an attractive, mature (under 30 is OK, but no "kids"), sincere person who enjoys freely giving affection and validation, call me and let's talk further. James-Louis 213-469-2711, ext. 401. If not in, please leave with switchboard your name, phone number and the best time to call you back. Make operator read back your message. Thanks. (12)

BM, BC wanted by sexy, slim, select, spectacular male. We service, savour blk cock. Photo, phone, letter. Box 12432, El Cajon, CA 92022. (12)

Free massage for fit smooth BM with big buns and small tight waist by WM, 36, professional, 173 lbs., safe, salt and pepper hair, blue eyes, moustache, BB swimmer. Mike 213-483-1517. (12)

Couple looking top GBM safe sex. 4370 W. Third St., Los Angeles 90020. (12)

Blow-job for in-shape black by attractive WM, 35. 415-338-1189. (13)

GBM, 30s, intelligent, good-looking, seeks same for companionship, movies, travel, etc. Possible safe sex, possible relationship. Write, send photo. Box 5112, Playa del Rey, CA 90296. (E)

Las Vegas soon? When in town call tall, blond, friendly Kass for an excellent deep muscle massage. 702-382-5419. (E)

W. dominant Dad, top, handsome, 59, needs to be sucked toe-to-head, armpit-to-backside, P/P, Box 155, 8721 Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (E)

Handsome GBM, well-built, 39, 190 lbs., 6 ft., seeks attractive well-built WM friend/relationship. Ph/ph to Occupant, 1818 - 6th #208, SD, CA 92101. (E)

Hi. My name is George. I'm a hot and horny Italian. I have an extreme bubble butt that's very tight. I'm looking for a top GBM (that is serious about having fun and safe relationship) to bust it at my place in the San Gabriel Valley. Serious men only. Call 818-369-6350. No calls after 10 p.m. (E)

Average BM, 40 years, 5'11", 145 lbs., beard, moustache, eclectic tastes, metaphysical, spiritual, wine, smoke, creative, artistic, ambitious, romantic, traveled, visionary, seeks WM with similar interests. K.S., 103A69, L.A. 90069. (E)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (E)

## GET INTO THE BLK MARKET FREE

■ **Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

■ **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

■ **All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.

■ **Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK mailbox for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

■ **Replying to a BLK mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Mailbox # \_\_\_\_\_

BLK Classifieds

Box 83912

Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

■ **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

■ **Please complete and sign the following. This information will not appear in your ad.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

■ I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

■ **Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

■ **Deadline:** Third Friday of the month prior to publication.

■ **Figure cost of ad:**

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ words at 5¢ (employment only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cost to run ad one month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of insertions \_\_\_\_\_

Total cost of ads \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone verification at \$1 (outside CA \$3) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BLK Mailbox at \$5 per month \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed (do not send cash) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

■ **Return to:** BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083



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For Over 20 Years”**

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A clean place to come . . .

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# **CHICAGO *HOUSE MUSIC* PARTY**

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**D.J. MICHAEL EZEBUKWU**  
*Direct from Chicago*

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**SAT. DEC. 2**  
**9 P.M.-2 A.M.**

**CALIFORNIA CLUB NU-VO**  
1526 Martin Luther King Blvd., L.A.

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**\$10 at door**

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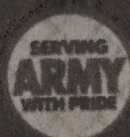


# BLK

Number 13, December 1989

Be all  
you can  
be.

ARMY  
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ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOUR  
**Choir or Church Group**  
GETS THE MESSAGE  
ABOUT HIV PREVENTION?



Invite us to your  
choir rehearsal or to  
other meetings at  
your church so you  
can hear the gospel  
truth.



Contact Frankie  
Lennon in the  
Health Education  
Department at the  
Minority AIDS Pro-  
ject. 213-936-4949.



# WORD UP

## Comedy According to Cosby

Dr. William H. Cosby, Jr. had a thing or two to say about the direction comedy is taking these days when he appeared on the *Arsenio Hall Show* Nov. 13. Talking about dirty language, the world's most successful sitcom daddy said, "I'm 52 and I've got to bring some kids up. It's not too funny to me."

Then, after lauding (and placing in context) Richard Pryor and Lenny Bruce, Cos said that if new comics "draw laughter because of race...you got one person laughing at another person...and then they talk about somebody who is homosexual and do the jab and laugh...the guy is selling out or the woman is selling out all over the place. I'm not sure if they're really aware of the fact that a great deal of that is anti-social behavior which is helping our nation *not* to come together, but to pull apart even further."

Father knows best.

## Sunday in the Park with Cops

A friend tells this tale about his recent visit to L.A.'s Griffith Park.

"I've gone to the park for almost 20 years, and though I've certainly heard about police harassment and vice cop entrapment, I never saw it until last week. I went to that very popular brush-covered area at the top of the park. There are so many little trails and coves that one friend of mine refers to it as a rabbit warren.

"I went to sit on a rock, to bask in the sun, to watch the road and to see



Bill Cosby

what interesting people might come my way. Two men showed up. One was a rather goodlooking black man. The other was heavyset and kind of ugly, wearing a too-tight T-shirt. Looked really weird. Don't ask me why, but I never suspected they were cops, mainly because they looked so normal. The black man gave me a dead-on gaze, which I returned. But, and thank God for this, I didn't make any gesture. I just looked at him looking at me. After a while, wondering what he wanted, I got off my rock and went down a trail to see if he would follow. He didn't.

"In the meantime another man showed up—tall, older (mid-40s maybe) than me, also in shorts.

He was obviously interested in the black man. I didn't feel like playing games with the black guy any more, so I climbed back up on my lookout rock, even though the tubby weirdo was standing there. I looked at him and smiled, but he refused to look at me. The black man continued his half-smiling gaze, but his hands remained at his sides. I wanted a signal before doing anything else.

Finally the black man went deeper into the bushes and (I'm not absolutely sure, but it looked like he) rubbed his crotch while facing the older man in shorts. Tubby got off his rock and went down the trail after him. A few minutes later, I heard a voice, with a heavy German accent, say "But I did nothing! *Nothing!* This is my first time here!" There was a clicking sound, and I suddenly realized, with a sinking, horrible feeling, what was going on. Shortly thereafter, they led the older man—apparently a German tourist—out of the park in handcuffs. Luckily he had another German friend with him, so someone would be able

to bail him out of jail.

"I was sitting there, alone, doing nothing, when those two creeps saw me from the road, and deliberately tried to set me up. If I had made one gesture—even if I had just brushed my crotch with my hand—they would have arrested me for lewd conduct! All of this stuff happened way off the road, deep inside the bushes, down trails that families and other "straight" Griffith Park attendees do not venture. Tax dollars go into this operation—dollars that could be spent trying to stem the tide of drive-by shootings. A police helicopter flew overhead when it was over out of which boomed, "Get out of there!" Why did I have to? There were no signs saying "No Trespassing." I wasn't breaking any laws—unless being a gay man trying to enjoy himself in a public park is against the law. In the name of making the world a safer place in which to live, a ton of money was spent to arrest one poor German tourist who just wanted to play with his wing-wang in the bushes."





# BLK BOARD

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1989

*Before Stonewall*, a film about the lesbian and gay movement before 1969. Among those featured are black lesbian author Audre Lorde and Native American activist Similie Hillaire. KQED. Ch. 9. 11:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1989

"MACTV" sponsored by Men of All Colors Together/New York. Tapes of TV shows in which MACT members, friends and supporters have appeared. Included: James Toms, Marjorie Hill, Harold Robinson, Jeanne Wembley, James Credle, Charles Angel, Ron Reid, Eric Perez, Dennis Kerr, David Macedon, Phil Reed, Andy Humm, Gregoire Terry, Jake Stevens and Averill Reed. Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St. (at 7th Ave.), New York, N.Y. 8 p.m.

"Acquired Visions: Seeing Ourselves Through AIDS," a performance by Other Countries presented by the Studio Museum in Harlem, 144 W. 125th St., New York, N.Y. 7:30 p.m. 212-865-2420.

"Are We Winning the Fight?" a discussion with a representative of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. Sponsored by Gay Men of African Descent. Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St. (at 7th Ave.), New York, N.Y. 8 p.m. 212-620-7310.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1989

Christmas party. Cottage, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 9 p.m.

"Racism, Homophobia, Loss and Love," an evening of poetry, narrative and song sponsored by Men of All Colors Together/New York. Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St. (at 7th Ave.), New York, N.Y. 8 p.m. \$12.50. 212-562-3131 or 212-245-6366.



"Look, Mommy, Santa Claus has tits!"

Chicago House Music Party sponsored by the Power Project. Music by Chicago DJ Michael Ezebukwu. California Club Nu-vo, 1755 Martin Luther King Blvd., Los Angeles. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1989

Bowling at Starlanes sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call Diamond at 213-738-7394.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Topic: "Bisexuality." Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1989

Variety Show sponsored by Barthelia and Bruce W. Johnson. Premiere evening of an event to be held every Monday. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles. 9 p.m. 213-737-9678.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. 7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1989

"Club Pumps" sponsored by First Class Productions. Tony Powell, DJ. Premiere evening of an event to be held every Wednesday. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles. 9 p.m. 213-737-9678.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1989

"It's Not Always Carnival in Brazil," a forum on Grupo Gay da Bahia, the sole affiliate chapter of Black and White Men Together/Men of All Colors Together outside the United States. Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St. (at 7th Ave.), New York, N.Y. 7:45 p.m.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1989

Third annual Holiday Party sponsored by The Experience. Food drive and benefit for Rue's House. The home of Richard McCune, 2639 Medlow Ave., Los Angeles. 2-5 p.m. Admission: Bag of groceries for Rue's House and potluck dish for the party, or groceries plus \$2. 213-254-7200.

"Rhythm Nation, 1989," a dance sponsored by Men of All Colors Together/New York. Cash bar. Snacks. 135 W. 14th St., 2nd Fl., New York, N.Y. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. \$7 members, \$10 non-members.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1989

"Hands Across West Hollywood." The Minority AIDS Project is among the agencies this fundraiser will benefit. 1 p.m. \$5.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1989

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave. #203, Los Angeles. 7 p.m.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1989

Christmas party and benefit for the needy sponsored jointly by the Imperial Court of the South Bay and the Annex. Raffle and show. Annex, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood. 8 p.m. \$3 or two canned food items. Call Dane at 213-671-7323.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1989

"Holiday Lights," a combination party celebrating various



traditions such as Kwaanza, Hanukkah and Christmas. Call Ramón at 213-854-5761.

Rap sponsored by Black Gay Men's Rap Group. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. 3-5 p.m. Call L. Paul Davis at 213-274-3398.

Tree trimming party. Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. Following morning service.

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1989**

Christmas party. Potluck. Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Roots Room, Los Angeles. 8 p.m. 213-666-5493.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1989**

Christmas caroling for the sick and shut-in sponsored by Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. Carpooling to locations. 5 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1989**

Louis and Laverne's Christmas Eve Show. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles. 9 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1989**

Annual Kwanzaa ceremony jointly sponsored by several lesbian and gay organizations of color. Call for information 212-245-6366 or 212-222-9794.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1989**

"Salon" sponsored by Men of All Colors Together/New York offering the following services: haircut, massage, facial, manicure, pedicure, hair braiding, foot massage or psychic reading. Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St. (at 7th Ave.), New York, N.Y. Noon-7 p.m. \$10 half hour. \$40 full package. 212-245-6366.

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1989**

New Year's Eve Watch Meeting. Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. Prayer. Communion. 10:30 p.m.-Midnight.

Táco Fest sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call René at 213-483-1108.

Louis and Laverne's New Year's Eve Show. Horizon, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles. 9 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. 7:30 p.m.

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1989**

Educational forum and consciousness raising session sponsored by Men of All Colors Together/New York taking the film, *Stale Roles and Tight Buns* as subject. Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W. 13th St. (at 7th Ave.), New York, N.Y. 7:45 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave. #203, Los Angeles. 7 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1989**

Outing to see the TV show, 227, sponsored by Beyond the Bars, a social group for men and women. Fifty tickets are

available. The show's producers have promised to make a donation to the Minority AIDS Project if all seats are filled. Call Mike at 213-936-4949.

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Roots Room, Los Angeles. 8 p.m. 213-666-5493.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles. 7:30 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave. #203, Los Angeles. 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1989**

"Hot, Horny & Healthy" Safe Sex Playshop sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Catch One Disco, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Roots Room, Los Angeles. 8 p.m. 213-666-5493.

#### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1990**

Third Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference and Health Institute sponsored by the Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum in cooperation with the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance. Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia. February 16-19. For more information, call 213-666-5495 or write BGLLF, Box 29812, Los Angeles, Calif. 90027.

# BLK

Number 13, December 1989

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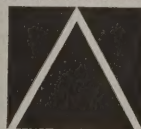
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**Cover:** Perry Watkins. Story on page 7. Photo by Stephen Stewart.



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# Sgt. Perry Watkins

*"Little black nellie queen" takes on the United States Army  
—and wins*

By Gary Atkins

At one point in the Broadway musical *La Cage aux Folles*, the lead character, a gay female impersonator, growls the theme of the show: "Life's not worth a damn," she sings, "till you can say, 'Hey world, I am what I am!'" The lyrics are just as apt for Perry Watkins, a Tacoma man who took on the Army, becoming in the process a kind of Rosa Parks for gay soldiers.

As a tired Parks did by sitting down in a bus seat, Watkins just as honestly has tried to be who he is. As a result, he

## COVER STORY

has pitted himself against a system designed to punish that honesty and has changed his life forever. He may even change the U.S. military forever.

His story could be a comedy, with the military bureaucracy posing on the one side, and on the other a wry, slender soldier who delights in repeatedly referring to himself as a "little black nellie queen." But foremost it is a struggle of a man out to right a wrong: The decision of the Army to accept his service for 15 years and then abruptly expel him based on information it knew all along. Judge Barbara Rothstein of the U.S. District Court in Seattle once wrote of Watkins, "If one case could establish not only the lack of wisdom, but the irrationality of the Army's policy of categorically barring homosexuals from its ranks, this would be it."

It all started in August 1967. The Vietnam conflict was widening fast. American B-52s had been cleared to bomb within ten miles of the Chinese border, and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara was planning to build a fortified barrier between the two Vietnams to cork what had become a gush of men and material rushing endlessly southward.

At 19, Perry Watkins seemed just another black teenager who happened to fit the Army's need. He had just graduated from Tacoma's Lincoln High School, and had failed to secure what was then an American teenage male's best insurance against an all-expenses-paid trip to Khesanh and Danang: a deferment to attend college. Instead, he went to live in Frankfurt, West Germany, with his stepfather, an Army staff sergeant.

On Aug. 28, Watkins reported for his pre-induction physical at a base dispensary. Handed a medical history form, he systematically checked "Yes" and "No" answers in 60 different boxes: "No" to scarlet fever, "No" to severe tooth trouble, "Yes" to carsickness. The final few boxes contained the most interesting juxtaposition of what the Army considered medical problems. Watkins marked "No" to bedwetting, "No" to nervous trouble, "No" to excessive drinking. And then he came to the box asking whether he had any homosexual tendencies.

Watkins very carefully checked "Yes."

He was immediately ordered into an Army ambulance and

taken to the base hospital to meet a psychiatrist, with a crisp note attached to his papers: "This 19-year-old inductee has had homosexual tendencies in the past. Referred for your evaluation and recommendation as to whether or not he is eligible for service in the U.S. Army." Quite a few straight men had been claiming gay tendencies to avoid encountering the Viet Cong. But Watkins had more than a penciled checkmark on a government form to prove his identity. At 19, he was no sexual saint and he was neither ashamed of that fact nor interested in hiding it.

In the interview, the psychiatrist asked whether he objected to going to Vietnam. He honestly said no. The psychiatrist asked why he had checked "Yes" in the box about homosexual tendencies. Watkins remembers saying curtly, "Because I am gay and I have no intention of changing." The psychiatrist asked whether he ever dated women. Watkins thought, "Ah ha, of course I'm going to say yes. Everybody dates women, even if you just go out for lunch. Then he's going to say I'm suitable for military service. And I was

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*He came to the box  
asking whether he had any  
homosexual tendencies.  
Watkins very carefully checked  
"Yes."*

---

right." The psychiatrist's note said simply, "Patient can go into military service—qualified for induction."

Months passed. For a while Perry thought he would not be drafted. But in February 1968, TET, the Vietnamese lunar new year, arrived, and with it the offensive that American commanders had thought impossible. Saigon, Hue, Danang, Pleiku, all were bloodied, overrun, by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars. The Army needed more soldiers, gay or not. On May 6, Perry Watkins reported for induction.

Watkins lived his early years in Joplin, Mo., where his father had left him and his sister to be raised by his mother, grandmother, and two aunts. Physically short, with what he now calls "saucerlike brown eyes" and long brown eyelashes, he was more inclined to theater and dancing than to sports that occupied other boys. At age 9, he heard one of his aunt's friends say he would make a pretty girl; instead of responding with the usual "Ugh" that might be expected, Watkins says now that "I can remember looking up at them and saying, 'Thank you.' It just didn't faze me. I just accepted, well, OK, I'd make a pretty girl. I think that was my



initial awareness that I was simply going to be me. I never had pressure to be anything other than myself. If I didn't want to play football, I didn't have to. [My family] didn't mind the fact that I could beat any girl on my block at jacks and hopscotch and jump rope. I was never taught to feel less than adequate because I wasn't so-called masculine. I didn't fit those stereotypes, and I think I was very fortunate. When I did realize I was gay, it wasn't a big shock to me. I didn't have to feel like I can't deal with this."

Watkins made that realization at age 13, and with it he began his sexual exploration. His first encounter occurred in the eighth grade with a boy from a nearby high school. "He told his friend and his friend spread it all over school by the next day." In an unusual stand for a gay teenager, even by today's standards, Watkins decided, "I don't care if they know." He believes his straightforwardness saved him from harassment. It would become his major method of coping with others' attitudes toward his being gay, not only in high school but also in the Army.

"If you're not ashamed of who you are, they may try to harass you," he says, "but they won't for long. They eventually come to a point where they have got to respect you at some level for being you." By the time he graduated from Lincoln in 1966, most of his friends knew. One wrote in his senior yearbook, "Why don't you give girls a chance?"

He wanted to be a performer. He enjoyed drama and speech. (He still lightheartedly cultivates attention, sometimes talking rapidly in monologues of run-on sentences.) During one interview, he spontaneously broke into song: "She bop she bop, my baby." He worked on plays in high school, although he did not hold many roles. He laughs, "There just weren't many parts for little black nellie queens." He wanted to be a cheerleader. He eventually learned classical ballet and modern jazz dance well enough to teach classes in Germany. One senses that in this array of roles he has maintained one positive quality: stubborn honesty about who he is. Yet he also says, "I don't step on people's toes." His honesty is more likely to be a defensive maneuver than an assault, a response to a direct question, not a first strike. For the past eight years of his fight with the Army, he has been more a man under siege than one who deliberately decided to lead a charge.

He likes the comparison to Rosa Parks. "Someone asked her once in an interview, 'Why on earth did you take such a drastic stand against racism?' The woman looked up and said, 'I wasn't taking a stand. I got on the bus and I was tired. All I wanted to do was sit down.'"

Of himself, he adds, "I wasn't taking a stand against the Army. I was being honest, that's all. But then, after 15 years, the Army decided it wanted to play games. Well, I don't play those kinds of games real well."

**O**pen homosexuality has long been a difficult issue for the U.S. military. During World War II, when the 1940 draft act forced the immediate registration of more than 16 million men, the military employed psychiatrists to interrogate potential inductees about their sexual desires. The doctors had little success in excluding gay people; one estimate is that five to ten gay people were admitted for each one excluded. Military studies in the 1940s and 1950s confirmed that lesbians and gay men served just as effectively as non-gays. The reports recommended that gay people be admitted to the military on a case-by-case basis rather than excluded entirely, but these findings were consistently ignored and often buried as classified information.

During the Vietnam War, the military tried to offset the sudden popularity of checking the "tendencies" question by demanding medical proof and explicit details of gay sex. A



**Sgt. Perry Watkins**

statement of "tendencies" was not enough. Watkins tried to meet the requirement. In the fall of 1968, just a few months after he was drafted, five soldiers wanting sex attacked him in his barracks at Fort Belvoir, Va. Watkins demanded a release. His commanding officer told him he would have to complain to the Army's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and prove that he was gay. The transcript of that investigation is revealing for what it says both about Watkins's honesty and about the Army's willingness to dig behind its own expedient beliefs when it needed bodies. In the tran-



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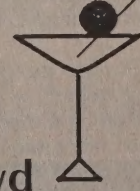
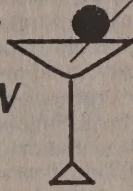
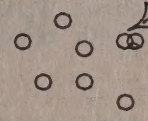
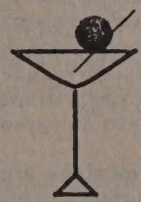
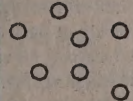
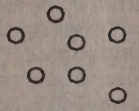
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script, Watkins detailed sexual acts with men in Tacoma and in the Army, naming several in his own barracks. The investigator accepted the others' denials and stopped the investigation. The report concluded that "there is insufficient evidence to prove or disprove that Watkins committed acts of sodomy."

Captured unwillingly, Watkins had to decide how to survive.

"I quit relying on the system to deal with something the system refused to deal with. I'd simply go in and tell people, 'I'm gay. You leave me the hell alone. You mess with me and I'll beat the shit out of you. I may not be able to do it while you're awake, but you've got to go to sleep sometime.'" It worked. "People didn't bother me. They would sit and talk with me, we'd have intelligent conversations, but nobody played the game [of] 'We're going to beat up the little faggot.'"

He was never sent to Vietnam. Watkins completed his two-year tour of duty in 1970 with an honorable discharge.

In the fall of 1971, *Army Times*, a tabloid covering military affairs, published three photographs of "Simone Monet," a showy, African-American female impersonator who lent her talents to the Army's recreational program in West Germany. Adorned in sequined gowns and sparkling shoes, equipped with 7-foot feather boas, Simone specialized in acts that combined modern jazz and classical ballet dance steps with lip-synched versions of Tina Turner, Diana Ross, and Eartha Kitt. She stripped, she mimed, she told bawdy jokes. She danced at the 56th Brigade's Organization Day and, a year after the *Army Times* coverage, she represented the U.S. Army at the Volks Festival in Berlin. Competing

### *"I wasn't taking a stand against the Army. I was being honest, that's all."*

against a dozen women, Simone won the festival beauty pageant with her saucer eyes. She had to give up the title, but she got to keep the prizes.

One of the three *Army Times* photos showed Simone in her other persona: Perry Watkins in Army uniform.

By then, Watkins actually enjoyed being in the Army, so long as the Army knew very clearly that he was not ashamed of being gay and did not intend to hide it. And that seemed a settled matter. After several months back in Tacoma, he re-enlisted in 1971 without difficulty. With the knowledge and encouragement of his commanders, Watkins began applying his talents in performing to become an Army drag-queen star.

Once, he relates, as Simone hurried in costume from her barracks, startled MPs grabbed her for questioning, only to find themselves excoriated by a member of the judge advocate general's office, who instructed them to leave her alone. They did. Another time, when Watkins's commanding officer led an inspection through the barracks, the inspector popped open Watkins's civilian-clothes locker and stared into an arrangement of bras, panties, and gowns. Watkins remembers the CO calmly explaining that Watkins performed as a female impersonator.

In 1974, when Watkins re-enlisted yet again, this time for a six-year tour, the Army dispatched him to Korea, where one of the first questions he remembers fielding from his new commanders was how soon Simone's gowns would arrive so she could perform. "For me," he says, drag "was just another dimension of entertaining"—and of blending Watkins the gay

performer with Watkins the gay soldier.

In his military work, he became a model soldier. He served usually in clerical positions, eventually becoming a personnel clerk who had to understand the intricate details of the Army's myriad regulations. His annual evaluation always rated his work outstanding. His commanding officers often called him their best clerk.

Still, his honesty shadowed him. In January 1972, the Army denied him a security clearance because he was gay. Two months later, an agent from the CID questioned him again. In a move that would later have significant impact, his company commander in Korea convened an official "Chapter 13 proceeding" to determine whether Watkins should be expelled (rules governing discharges on grounds of homosexuality were then contained in Chapter 13 of Army regulations). Having convened the board, the commander testified that Watkins was "the best clerk I have ever known" and said he had done a "fantastic" job. The board ruled unanimously that Watkins should be retained despite his being gay.

Officially, that should have settled the matter. The regulations said so.

Re-stationed in Texas and then again in Germany, Watkins eventually got his security clearance so he could process classified materials. In March 1979, another investigator arrived and started the usual interrogation: Are you homosexual? Have you ever been investigated? Have you seen a psychiatrist? All of the answers were already in Watkins's file, but he dutifully answered honestly again. Then the investigator added a peculiar new question: Are you a female impersonator? Watkins responded truthfully, explaining that his performances had been approved by his commanders. In October 1979, he re-enlisted again, this time for three years.

He had no idea how quickly the Army was about to turn against him.

In 1980, the siege began. The disquiet that would eventually alter Watkins's steady, if occasionally challenged, military career started in the Air Force. The fly-boys had pushed headlong into an embarrassing court defeat by discharging one of their most outstanding air men, a gay tech sergeant named Leonard Matlovich who had collected a Bronze Star, two Air Force commendation medals, a meritorious service medal, and a Purple Heart, the last for wounds suffered in a mine exposition in Vietnam. The Air Force booted him for being gay despite regulations that allowed exceptions to be made for outstanding individuals. Incredulously, a federal appeals court demanded to know exactly what else Matlovich would have had to do to win an exception for being "outstanding."

To explain that would have forced the Air Force to concede that some gay people did perform outstandingly, thus riddling the carefully nurtured notion that lesbians and gay men were incompatible with military service. The Air Force settled out of court and each military branch hustled to change its regulations.

The exception clause had to be dropped. All lesbians and gay men would be discharged. A Department of Defense (DOD) directive stated that "persons who, by their statements, demonstrate a propensity to engage in homosexual conduct, seriously impair the military mission." Such military personnel, the directive said, would adversely affect discipline, order and morale, as well as pose problems wherever privacy was minimal. The directive also noted that gay people might constitute security threats because they could be blackmailed.

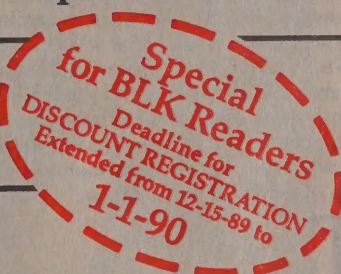
The new regulation was more sweeping and one-sided than the only law Congress had passed regarding lesbians, gay men and the military: a criminal prohibition against consensual oral or anal intercourse, whether homosexual or heterosexual, whether married or not. The new regulation



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overlooked illegal heterosexual acts, which presumably occur rather regularly, but ordered the exclusion of anyone who even "desires" to engage in homosexual conduct. Then it expansively included on not only oral and anal intercourse in its definition of homosexual conduct, but "any bodily contact ...between members of the same sex for the purpose of satisfying sexual desires." Even lesbians and gay men who might agree to remain celibate for the duration of their military careers were excluded because the military argues that the act of coming out fulfills the definition of "desire."

The federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld the regulation in 1980. The Pentagon began its enforcement.

Watkins lost his security clearance first. The initial notice of revocation cited Watkins's admission of homosexuality to the security investigator who had questioned him in March 1979. It said his admission indicated a "lack of judgment and discretion." When he read the letter, Watkins wondered whether he was supposed to show more "judgment" by lying. The letter continued, "These character deficiencies are incompatible with the criteria established as necessary for the possession of a security clearance."

**T**hinking he faced routine harassment, Watkins dutifully filed an appeal, pointing out that his sexual orientation was not exactly new information for the Army. "It would hardly make sense, what the man was talking about when he asked me how long I had been homosexual." Watkins still had his local commander's support—he was stationed at Fort Lewis in Tacoma by then—but this time he faced brass in the Pentagon who did not care about his ratings or his performance. They cared only about the label he bore. The final revocation not only ignored Watkins's responses, but cited different reasons. It said that, among other things, the security clearance was being revoked because Watkins has "a history of performing as a female impersonator." It did not acknowledge that Simone had performed with Army encouragement.

No one risks a career and contests an employer lightly, especially if the "employer" is the U.S. Army. But by 1980,

*"I quit relying on the system to deal with something the system refused to deal with. I'd simply go in and tell people, 'I'm gay. You leave me the hell alone. You mess with me and I'll beat the shit out of you.'"*

Watkins had invested 11 years in the military, and a counter thrust appeared not only appropriate, but demanded. He went to the American Civil Liberties Union in Seattle. A young attorney sitting on the ACLU's legal committee, James Lobsenz had clerked while in law school for California Supreme Court Justice Matthew Tobriner, at a time when both Tobriner and the court were known for their active civil rights stances. Shortly after he had begun clerking, Lobsenz had come across an appeal filed with the court by telephone company employees who had been fired because they had publicly declared they were gay. They had no strong law on their side, but Lobsenz had urged Tobriner to consider the

case. Tobriner had surprised and impressed his young clerk by rising from his desk, pounding his fist into his left hand, and declaring, "By God, you're right. We have to do something about this! We have to take this case and we have to use this case to change the law!"

"He taught me" Lobsenz would say later [that] you don't have to accept the present static condition of the law. You should be trying to change it to make it better all the time." Together, the two had found legal theories that produced one of the gay civil rights movement's most outstanding court victories against employer discrimination in California.

Watkins had found his first ally. When the two first met, Lobsenz told him, "If you propose to bring a lawsuit, you have to expect retaliation" The young attorney would take the case pro bono, working on his own time and in his own home. Watkins had had enough harassment. With Lobsenz's help, he carefully decided to first file a tempered appeal to the Army.

Watkins noted in his letter to Army personnel in early 1981 that the Army had changed its reasons for revoking the security clearance and so had not allowed him a proper appeal. "In the past," he wrote, "the Army has actually encouraged me to fulfill my responsibilities as a female impersonator to entertain the troops...If this is an example of notorious or disgraceful conduct upon which the Army proposed to base a revocation of my security clearance, then why did the Army seek to publicize my conduct by spreading news of my performance to Army personnel around the globe?"

"I submit that I have been consistently penalized for my honesty. I have always admitted my homosexuality. I will always continue to admit my homosexuality in the future."

The Army never answered. Instead, it lost the letter.

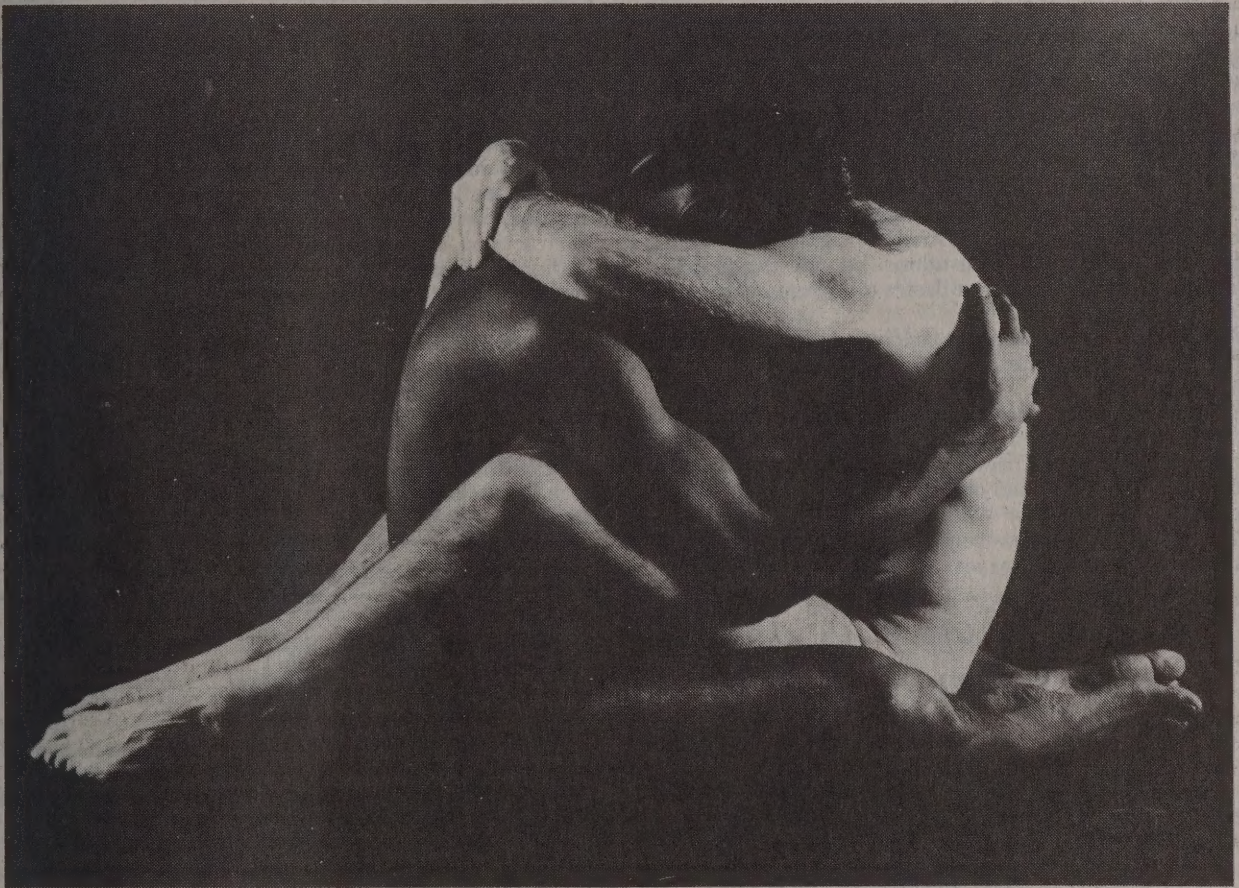
Three months later, Watkins sent another. The Army refused to process it.

Instead, in the summer of 1981, it ordered a "Chapter 15 hearing" named after the new collection of anti-gay rules. The Army had decided to banish Perry Watkins altogether. The next eight years were to darken into an ever deepening pit of legal warfare. Two forces would remain constant: the Pentagon's compulsion to get rid of the "little black nellie queen" whatever the cost, and Watkins's stubborn determination to fight back.

Watkins never intended to challenge the military's entire tradition of excluding lesbians and gay men. "I'm not trying to be a hero" he explains. Simone was frank, but she did not plan to audition for a starring role in a passion play. Watkins says he would have willingly folded his uniform alongside Simone's gowns and left quietly if he felt he had been treated justly. "The Army should have had enough of a backbone to stand up and say, 'We're sorry, Sergeant Watkins, we made the error. We'll go ahead and retire you,' instead of waltzing into court and saying, 'Well gee, Your Honor, we don't have any idea how the man managed to avoid the system and now, well, he's done this and this, and we've got to throw him out.'"

**T**hroughout the case, the Army has defended its decision to expel Watkins by coldly repeating the reasons listed in the DOD directive: as a gay man, Watkins must constitute a threat to order, security, and morale. At the same time, the government's attorneys have always conceded that Watkins the individual soldier performed superbly and caused no difficulties with fellow soldiers. They have argued, though, that his openness about being a gay man violated his oath as a serviceman to uphold the Army's regulations. They have cited the statements he gave during that 1968 Fort Belvoir investigation as "proof" he has had sexual relations with other men—although at the time, of course, the same state-





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**21st at 8:00 p.m.**  
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Minority AIDS Project  
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Gay & Lesbian Community  
Services Center - Rm. 203  
1213 N. Highland Ave., L.A.



ments failed to release him from the Army.

"Congress, not the Army," the government attorneys argued in one brief, "decreed that sodomy should be an act punishable as a crime under military law. Excluding those who admit an intention or desire to engage in conduct which Congress has made criminal in nature effectuates the policy of deterring homosexual activity set by Congress. In a memo attacking Lobsenz's attempt to convince the court that Watkins had a First Amendment right to declare he is a gay man, the attorneys said, "Any First Amendment interest attaching to the right to make statements admitting to homosexuality is outweighed by the Army's interest in deterring homosexual conduct. Watkins admission, they said, is evidence that he has the intent or desire to engage in homosexual acts."

Watkins, the Army's lawyers concluded, "has no property interest in continued military service. He serves only at the Army's pleasure."

At first, Lobsenz tried to wage a limited response confined to narrow legal arguments. He asked Judge Rothstein to stop the Army's Chapter 15 hearing on the basis of double jeopardy. The board that had convened in Korea in 1975 had already ruled on whether Watkins could be discharged because of being gay; the new regulations prohibited repeated hearings on the same charges. When the Army claimed it

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*With the knowledge and encouragement of his commanders, Watkins began applying his talents in performing to become an Army drag-queen star.*

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had new charges to bring, Rothstein let the hearing proceed, but the only new charge turned out to be a year-old accusation by a private that an African-American sergeant had made a sexual advance. The private could not identify the sergeant, and Watkins denied the allegation. After Lobsenz got an Army major to admit the accusation had been evaluated a year earlier and dropped for lack of support, the Chapter 15 board rejected the charge.

Yet the board still obliged the Pentagon by recommending by a 2-1 margin that Watkins be discharged "because he has stated that he is a homosexual." Those statements, the board reasoned in a bit of Catch-22 logic, constituted "new" conduct since 1975, and under the new regulations a statement alone was enough to kick a soldier out. The major general assigned to review the discharge recommendation not only approved, but added his own finding that, "based upon a preponderance of the evidence"—evidence the board had just found inadequate—"Staff Sergeant Perry Watkins has engaged in homosexual acts with other soldiers."

That was just too brazen for Rothstein. In May 1982 she angrily declared the discharge invalid and forced the Army to reinstate Watkins. It complied, but pulled his name from the promotion eligibility list, crossed him off the roster for a Good Conduct Medal, and delayed in paying him until Lobsenz asked for a contempt citation. The military's attorney also defiantly declared that even with the court forced reinstatement, the Army would refuse to re-enlist Watkins when his tour of duty ended four months later. In June 1982, Watkins asked to look at his re-enlistment data card and found that a previous notation of eligible had been changed to "ineligible." He doggedly filed for a new tour anyway, then

went off to an Army personnel training school where he logged an almost perfect score of 92.6 percent. True to its attorney's word, the Army refused his re-enlistment.

Again Rothstein intervened, ordering the Army to process Watkins's re-enlistment just as it always had—without regard to his sexual orientation. Ostensibly to comply, the Army convened another hearing at Fort Lewis. Watkins arrived to a barrage of questions targeted at his homosexuality. Lobsenz angrily told him to refuse to answer. Rothstein, her frustration with the Army showing even in her written opinion, berated its "flagrant disregard" for the court's instructions, then commanded Watkins's re-enlistment herself. She avoided any of the constitutional questions about gay civil rights and based her decision on a narrow legal theory of "equitable estoppel." Essentially, she said, a contract existed. Since Watkins had been honest all along, the government had allowed him to believe his sexual orientation would not prevent him from completing a military career. To now change the rules of the game, a few years before he would be eligible to retire, was unfair. It was exactly the patty Watkins and Lobsenz wanted to win: a small step that would protect Watkins, not a cannon blast in favor of all gay soldiers. The government attorneys contended that even though officers in the past had known of Watkins's conduct, their violations of regulations could not be considered a promise on the part of the Army to let Watkins finish his career.

Watkins became a soldier again while the Army petitioned the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. His evaluations grew colder, at least initially. His raters acknowledged that he was "technically proficient," but for the first time they began deferentially adding that, because he was gay, he should not be promoted. By the end of his first year back, though, the raters had warmed again to Watkins the individual, rather than Watkins the "Chapter 15." In November 1983, he earned 123.5 out of a possible 125 points, and one rater wrote, "Sergeant Watkins is without exception one of the finest Personnel Action Center supervisors I have encountered. He requires no supervision, and with his 'can do' attitude always exceeds the requirements and demands placed on him." Another rater, a major, commented, "Sergeant Watkins's positive influence has been felt throughout the battalion... [His] potential is unlimited."

The Pentagon didn't care. In December of that year, a three-judge appeals panel unanimously overturned Rothstein's order, reasoning that equitable estoppel laws could not be used to sue the military for a violation of its own regulations unless the regulations themselves violated the Constitution. One of the three judges was William A. Norris, a Carter appointee who agreed with the other judges on the equity point, but fervently chastised the Army. Norris called the military's policy "regressive" and said it demonstrated "a callous disregard for the progress American law and society have made toward acknowledging that an individual's choice of lifestyle is not the concern of government, but a fundamental aspect of personal liberty."

Watkins was shocked and depressed.

The judges, particularly Norris, all had seemed to agree that he had been foully mistreated, but then they had ruled for the Army. What kind of justice was that, he wondered. Something strange was going on at the 9th Circuit that Watkins and Lobsenz did not understand. Their narrow argument was rejected, but Norris at least seemed to want a wholesale sacking of Chapter 15. Instructed to consider whether the regulations actually violated the Constitution, Rothstein reluctantly concluded that she could no longer aid Watkins, but not without noting her "abiding conviction that [Watkins] has suffered a grievous wrong for which there simply is no remedy at this juncture." The Army discharged Watkins in May 1984, about 16 years after he first entered.



It was the beginning of the bleakest days for Watkins. Simones' gowns went in a closet along with his uniform. He trudged to employment offices in Tacoma and faced the repeated question of why he had left the Army when he had been so close to retirement. He told his story as he always had—honestly. But, he says, Even if they accept that you're gay and they don't discriminate against you for that reason, they ask you the one question that lets you know you're never going to be called back: What did you do after 15 years that made the Army put you out?

"And I did nothing. It's not like the Army caught me in bed with 20 people, or even one. Any employer's going to think I'm lying; obviously, I did something."

He got a few jobs here and there—working for an airline, selling fire alarms—but they usually did not pay the rent. With a college degree in business that he had finished in the military and with 15 years of personnel experience, he had to accept jobs that paid little more than the minimum wage, "which is great," he says, "if you're just out of high school." He was forced to sell a house he had bought in Tacoma. He filed bankruptcy.

The Army had won by steadily raising the stakes. Watkins could continue to fight only if he wanted to become the standard-bearer for a much more difficult struggle: constitutionally challenging the military's discrimination against all gay and lesbian soldiers. The starring role in what looked like a hopelessly quixotic script was at hand.

He stubbornly told Lobsenz to file another appeal in June 1985.

**T**he weather in February 1988, the 20th anniversary of the TET offensive, was seasonably warm in San Francisco and in the offices of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals there. Hundred-year-old temperature records were falling all over northern California and thousands of people were on the beaches, deciding it was already summer. On Wednesday, Feb. 10, the clerks at the court office prepared to release the latest in the series of opinions entitled *Sergeant Perry Watkins v. U.S. Army*.

An appeals court is not like a trial court that bustles with the raw emotions of victims and law breakers. The attorneys and judges work mostly through paper. The countless memos have a way of vanishing into the silence of the long, empty corridors of the Circuit's courthouse.

Twice during those interminable months while Watkins waited, there had been a memo from the panel of three judges assigned to the case. One, in June 1986, had ordered the attorneys to discuss what impact a new Supreme Court decision, *Bowers v. Hardwick*, had on Watkins's arguments for a constitutional right to privacy that would stop the military's probes into the consensual sex lives of its personnel. The 1986 case upheld Georgia's right to send police into bedrooms to arrest gay people for private, consensual sex between adults, saying the constitutional "right to privacy" did not extend to lesbians and gay men. Lobsenz had replied with his shortest brief, a statement that although he and the 9th Circuit might disagree with the *Hardwick* outcome, it had put a definite end to Watkins's privacy argument.

Silence descended again for nine months; then in March 1987, an intriguing memo arrived only a month before oral arguments were scheduled. Watkins and Lobsenz had continued to argue the narrowest contractual and constitutional grounds they could, even on the second appeal. But the panel wanted a thorough constitutional argument from each attorney about whether lesbians and gay men could be considered a "suspect class," a legal category created by the Supreme Court to guide the review of laws and government actions that might discriminate unfairly against entire classes

of people. Several factors define the category: Whether a group has suffered a history of discrimination, whether the discrimination could be considered grossly unfair, whether the group has certain unchangeable characteristics, and whether it has little hope of obtaining protection from popularly elected legislatures. Racial minorities, for example, are considered a "suspect class," so that government actions discriminating against such groups are supposed to get intense "strict scrutiny" by the courts. The two-page order was exceptionally detailed, a road map that told Watkins to make his most legally earth-shattering argument.

The order had been signed by William A. Norris.

On Feb. 10, Watkins was unemployed. He had gone to help his parents, who owned a small grocery and delicatessen in Tacoma. On his way home, he saw a friend from high school furiously waving and leaping.

"I stood there and I thought, well, hmm, do I want to acknowledge a person who would jump up and down like that in the middle of the street? Well, of course I do, so I went, 'Hi Jerry!' The light changes and Jerry runs across the street, runs right up to me and goes, 'Congratulations!' For what? 'You won!' I won what? I won the Lotto? He says, 'Your case!' And I said, 'Oh,' quietly. I thought, well, they've given me this narrow ruling that says you kept him in there for 15 years, you've got to retire him, and it doesn't affect

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*It was the first time a federal appeals court had found such sweeping constitutional protection for the civil rights of gay and lesbian Americans.*

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anyone else. So I'm not real, real concerned.

"Jerry looked at me. From my face, he knew I didn't understand exactly what he was saying. He said, 'You don't seem to understand. They declared the regulation unconstitutional.' Watkins sucked a deep breath. "Oh, no. You're kidding me. Oooh my God."

On a 2-1 vote, with Judge Norris writing the majority opinion, the panel had ruled that lesbians and gay men were a "suspect class" entitled to the same "equal protection" against discrimination as racial minorities. It was the first time a federal appeals court had found such sweeping constitutional protection for the civil rights of gay and lesbian Americans. The Army regulations were unconstitutional. Watkins could not be barred from re-enlistment simply for being a gay man, and neither could any other soldier. With the "suspect class" designation, all government discrimination against lesbians and gay men, not just the military's, could be questioned. The man who had been the stubborn, honest teenager from Tacoma was about to begin a national performance of his own story. He went home to TV crews and to phone calls from *The New York Times*.

Early in February 1989, near the first anniversary of Norris' decision, in one of the gay-owned restaurants on Capitol Hill, Watkins talked about his life now. He has savored his spectacular constitutional triumph, but the Army has not surrendered and is not likely to, short of a Supreme Court test. Those who lose a decision before a three-judge panel can request another hearing before a larger group of appellate judges; the Army had its hearing this past October when 11 judges of the 9th Circuit re-heard arguments. The Army contended in its request for this hearing that the Nor-

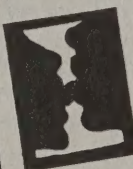


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ris panel had "impermissibly accorded suspect status to a class that is largely defined by criminal behavior." As had the Norris panel, the new judges, even some of the more conservatives, professed incredulity that the Army would simply expel Watkins after having re-enlisted him for so many years.

"I had hoped that by the time of this anniversary," Watkins said, "I'd have the second decision." But there's been no word.

Watkins has started a new job, ironically as a personnel clerk for the federal government again, but in a civilian agency. Like many of the entry-level jobs he has found, the work pays only about \$6 an hour. He also flew east for a taping of the *Sally Jessy Raphael Show*, another in a series of national and local TV appearances that have included an interview with Geraldo Rivera and a feature on *60 Minutes*. While Lobsenz continued to maneuver among the legal ram-parts, Watkins took his treatment to the stage of public opinion, at least as well as he was able to and still meet his rent. Newspapers across the country editorialized in support; even conservative columnist James Kilpatrick chastised the Army's treatment of him. Gay groups invited him to speak or to be grand marshal for their pride parades last June, but did not divert any money into actually assisting him with day-to-day expenses. Fame, even on the national stage, provides only occasional free airplane tickets. It does not pay for utilities or groceries. At times, Watkins fell as much as \$3,000 behind in meeting his regular bills. Yet he fought on.

"Fear is what motivates a person," he says. "Being brave has nothing to do with it. I'm scared, I hate the idea of going before the Supreme Court, but I'm going to do it if I have to. I sure am. I hate the fact of being black and gay in America and going into a justice system that obviously does not support you, but I'm going to do it. I don't have any choice. If I want to eat tomorrow, I've got to. It's scary, it's real scary. I'm certainly not doing this just to get attention, because, Lord knows, there's a lot of ways I can get attention without throwing all my possessions away.

"It doesn't matter why you're being discriminated against. It still stinks. Whether it's because you're black, whether it's because you're gay, whether it's because you're handicapped or a women—it doesn't matter why the discrimination is there and it should not be allowed."

On May 3 of this year, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals reached a decision. Its 7-4 decision gave Watkins a victory on the narrow contract (estoppel) grounds he and Lobsenz had been seeking. It side-stepped the constitutional issue of whether the military must admit lesbians and gay men on an equal par with non-gays. In the majority decision, Judge Harry Pregerson wrote, "This is a case where equity cries out and demands that the Army be stopped from refusing to re-enlist Watkins on the basis of his homosexuality."

It is not clear whether the Army will appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court.

Watkins reflected that great legal and social challenges can be levied in completely unintended ways. Every actor who has participated in his saga has read from an individual script—the military's determination to exclude lesbians and gay men whatever the reality of their service, Norris' intention to alter a prejudiced policy, Simone's insistent honesty. Watkins's script now is written by his hope for personal justice: to be accepted by the Army as the person he always truthfully admitted he was.

"If you don't fight," he said, "you're never going to win. If you don't question, you're never going to make changes. They said they wanted me, so I went in and soldiered.

"I did the best I could."

A version of this article originally appeared in the Seattle Weekly.



# Mabel Hampton

*Black lesbian octogenarian activist,  
co-founder of Lesbian Herstory Archives, dies at 87.*

**By Mark Haile**



**Mabel Hampton at National Gay and Lesbian March on Washington in 1979. Photo by Joan Nestle.**

**M**abel Hampton was a proud African-American lesbian for all of her 87 years. Proud of herself. And proud of her people. For those who think activism is a job for the young, Mabel Hampton proved age is no barrier to being involved, and no excuse to stay home. With her death last Oct. 26, she further proved that her example of life-long activism transcends mortality. Her legacy of the last half century has established Mabel Hampton as a role model for communities of color for generations to come.

Mabel Hampton was born in Winston-Salem, N.C., May

2, 1902, moving to New York City's Greenwich Village at the age of seven. Over the next eight decades that New York was her home, she was always active, working as a child by singing in the streets of the Village for pennies. She knew even then that she was destined to be a woman who loved women, recalling, "Well, I must have come out when I was eight years old. To tell the truth, I never was in, so I must have been out!"

In her teens, Mabel Hampton performed in an all-women's dance troupe on Coney Island. Offstage, she supported herself as a domestic. During the Harlem Renaissance, Mabel Hampton was among the celebrated young performers that made Harlem the gathering spot of African-American intellectuals and artists. In the thirties and forties, Mabel Hampton appeared in several productions at the Lafayette Theater in New York, and was a dancer at the Garden of Joy in Harlem.

In 1937, Mabel Hampton met her life partner, Lillian Foster. Fixtures on 169th St. in the Bronx, the two women were lovers for some 40 years until Foster's death in 1978, almost as long as Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas.

After the Stonewall Riots of 1969, Mabel Hampton marched in the New York Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade every June. In 1979, she went to the nation's capital for the first National Gay and Lesbian March on Washington.

In 1974, Mabel Hampton joined with Joan Nestle, Judith Schwartz and Deborah Edel to become the founders of the Lesbian Herstory Archives. Originally located in Brooklyn, but now in Manhattan, it is the world's largest archive and educational center for lesbian culture. Mabel Hampton's gift of her lifetime accumulation of papers, artifacts and memo-



**Mabel Hampton in 1984 wearing her Eastern Star outfit, standing in front of a poster of Lillian Foster, her lover of some 40 years. Photo by Morgan Gwenwald.**





**Mabel Hampton in the 1930s.** Photo courtesy of the Lesbian Herstory Archives.

rabilia comprise one of the largest private collections ever donated to a gay and lesbian academic group.

Mabel Hampton, with her penchant for Southern sayings and her memories of lesbian and gay life, was featured in two classic documentary films, *Silent Pioneers* and *Before Stonewall*, which trace the development of culture and community among lesbians and gay men prior to the momentous events of 1969.

Though short in stature and soft-spoken, Mabel Hampton was considered an inspiration to feminists and civil rights activists nationwide. Her involvement with Seniors Active in a Gay Environment (SAGE), proved there is no age limit for activism in the lesbian and gay community, forever bridging generations.

**A**fter her death, attributed to pneumonia, Mabel Hampton's funeral was held Oct. 31 at St. Augustine's Church in the Bronx, followed by a celebration of her life Nov. 16 at New York's Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Both were attended by hundreds whose lives were touched by the quiet woman of integrity with the Southern accent.

"Mabel was one fine woman," said Judith Schwartz, her comrade at the Lesbian Herstory Archives. Joan Nestle said, "Mabel loved life so much that her passions will be our lifelong memories."

The *New York Times* reported that Mabel Hampton had

no immediate survivors, a remark refuted by hundreds in the lesbian and gay community who felt as though they had lost a member of their own family. It is a tribute befitting Mabel Hampton as she had spent her life cultivating a sense of family among the communities in which she was involved.

Mabel Hampton herself said in 1984, "I would like all my people to be free in this country and all over the world—my

*"Well, I must have come out when I was eight years old. To tell the truth, I never was in, so I must have been out!"*

gay people and my black people. Places like Lesbian Herstory Archives and SAGE help gay people know that they are full citizens of this city and the world."

Donations in the memory of Mabel Hampton may be directed to the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc., Box 1258, New York, N.Y. 10016, and to Seniors Active in a Gay Environment, 208 W. 13th St., New York, N.Y. 10011.



**Mabel Hampton at the Lesbian Herstory Archives in 1981.** Photo by Paula Grant.



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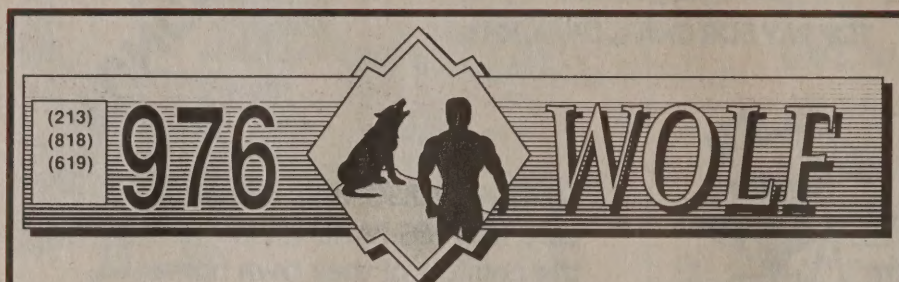
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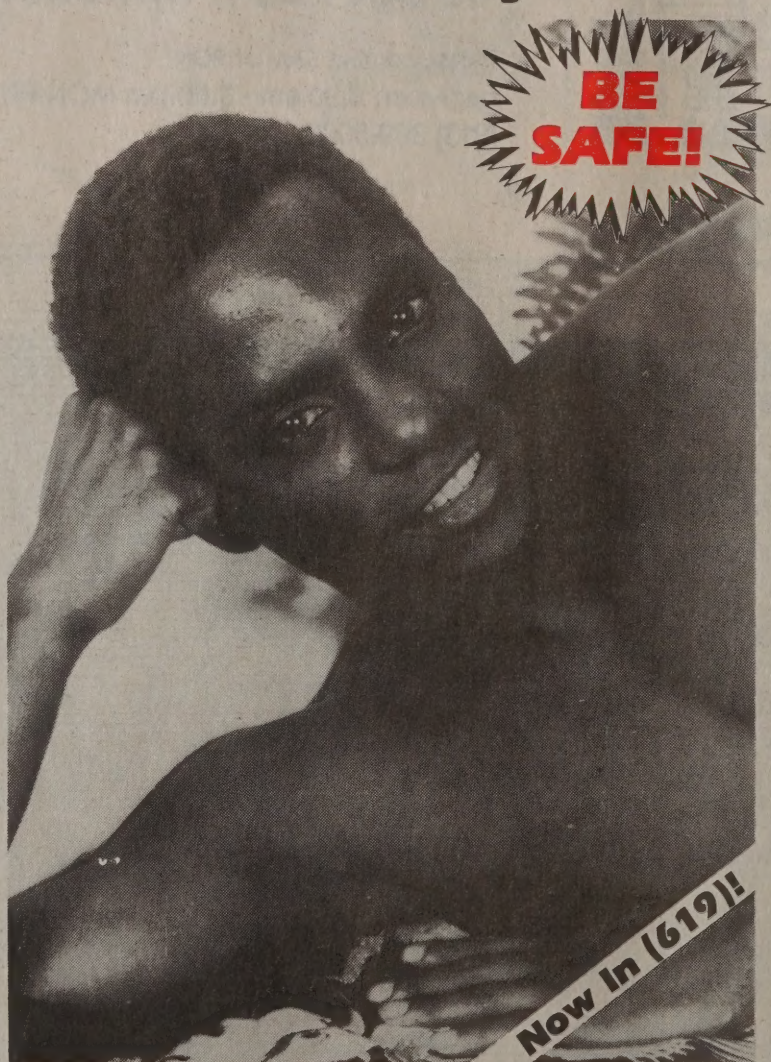


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# BLK COMMUNITY NEWS

## Keith St. John Becomes First Openly Gay Black Man to Win Elective Office in the United States

ALBANY, N.Y.—When Keith St. John trounced two opponents to gain the job of alderman in Albany's 2nd Ward, the relatively minor post belied the fact that his victory had established an electoral milestone. In amassing 75 percent of the vote, St. John overcame a self-described "double whammy" to become the nation's first openly gay black man to gain elective office.

In a year that saw other electoral firsts for blacks—include a governorship and the New York City mayoralty—St. John's victory may be more than symbolic.

"I am very happy and proud of my accomplishment which undoubtedly means a great deal not only to the citizens of Albany New York but to the great minority and majority lesbian and gay community," St. John told BLK. "I hope to represent change and empowerment and opportunity for the gay community especially of African-American descent to place its fears behind it and speak out for what is just and right. Insidious discrimination will not be tolerated any longer."

Gay and lesbian political organizations nationally have watched this race and note that its real significance lies in where it happened, namely a district not known as a gay or lesbian stronghold. It is, however, a majority black district.

"It shows if the candidate speaks to issues of concern in their district, the gay candidate does not need to run in a gay district to win," said Candida Piel, head of Fairpac, a political action committee in New York City.

St. John, 32, a soft-spoken man who ran on an anti-machine platform, also overcame one of the most virulent, negative campaigns in memory. The day before the election, gaybashing flyers were passed around his district, terming the candidate "Sweet St. John," and asked voters to consider whether they "really want a man who finds [sodomy] religiously rewarding to represent you."

"Both of my opponents ran negative campaigns. It was the worst in terms of gay bashing in print," St. John said. "Luckily, voters were turned off by the negative campaigning. I was able to make my being gay a non-issue, as I believe it was," he said.

"One of the hallmarks of my campaign was to stick to the issues that were relevant to the community. I was a candidate who is black and gay, but I wasn't running on any single issue," he said.

In winning the race, St. John defeated incumbent alderman Arthur Scott, who upon losing the Democratic primary, got the Conservative Party nod. The primary win was not without controversy. Though initial results showed St. John won by 165 votes, a last-second flurry of absentee ballots from a senior citizens' home cut the margin to three votes. Four lawsuits later, St. John was declared the winner.

The real race was the primary. We were all on pins and needles on that one," Piel said. "Gay or not gay, any candidate who manages to unseat an incumbent really had to get a message across." Piel's organization contributed \$1,000 to St. John campaign, which the opposition was quick to trumpet, she said.

"I think it's a monumental achievement for our community," said Libby Post, spokeswoman for the New York State Lesbian and Gay Lobby. "For an urban area like Albany,

with the demographics of that ward for people to rise above the petty homophobia that came from the opposition is a great statement."

St. John, a lawyer, was born in Manhattan and raised in White Plains. He graduated from Yale University and Cornell University Law School.

The first openly gay public official was Elaine Noble from Boston's Back Bay District, elected to the Massachusetts State House in 1974. Ironically, she was gerrymandered out of her seat by Barney Frank, today an openly gay congressman.

## GGB Says One Gay Killed Every 10 Days in Brazil

SALVADOR, Bahia, Brazil—The Grupo Gay da Bahia (The Gay Group of the State of Bahia) reports that in the last eight years, 320 lesbians and gay men have been killed in Brazil. Despite the fact that homosexuality is legal here, social acceptance is rare and gay people are subject to *de facto* officially sanctioned violence.

Two common sayings are: "It is worse to be homosexual than to die" and "I'd prefer my son to be a thief or dead, than to be homosexual." In 1987, Colonel Pomponet of Bahia killed his son, Augusto Cesar, when he discovered he was gay, believing that what he did was right. Gay people have been humiliated, driven from their homes and jobs, stoned, jailed on the flimsiest of evidence and killed with impunity. A lesbian or gay man is killed every ten days according to GGB.

Some of the more sensationalistic popular daily journals actually encourage violence against gay people. The November 15, 1988 issue of *A Tarde*, a newspaper in Salvador, included articles which said, "To kill a homosexual is not a murder. It is a hunting trophy" and "Keep the city clean: Kill a homosexual every day."

GGB has been urging that letters be sent both to *A Tarde* protesting their stand on homosexuality and to the president of the Salvador City Council. The group would appreciate copies of any letters sent.

Addresses are: Redator Chefe Do Jornal *A Tarde*; Av. Magalhaes Neto, s/n; Caminho das Arvores; Salvador, Bahia, Brasil; and Presidente da Camara Municipal De Salvador, Praca Municipal, Salvador, Bahia, Brasil; and GGB, G.P. 2552, 40020 Salvador, Bahia, Brasil. Correspondence can be written in English, Portuguese or Spanish.

Nine years old, GGB publishes a thrice yearly, eight-page bulletin in Portuguese. Subscriptions are US\$5. The group's bulletin also accepts personal ads in any language for \$2.

GGB is distributing 5000 condoms each month as part of its campaign against AIDS. Representatives from the group appear regularly on radio and television debating and discussing homosexuality and AIDS.

GGB has become the first overseas chapter of the USA-based Black and White Men Together and was the first Latin American group to become a member of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.



## S.F. AIDS Agencies Still Recovering from Quake

By Mark Haile, BLK Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—While property owners in the San Francisco Bay area who suffered damage in the Oct. 17 earthquake wade through government red tape, AIDS agencies in the area find themselves with few avenues at all available to them for assistance.

Despite the appearance of near normalcy, tourism has fallen off considerably since the 7.1 shaker. Because much of the city's revenue is tied to tourism-related taxation, as funds usually available fail to materialize, social programs suffer. Promised federal assistance so far has only come in small amounts.

To compound the problem, many lesbian and gay men of color were hotel and restaurant workers who were laid off as a result of the slump.

San Francisco mayor Art Agnos, the most visible public officer in the hours and days following the quake, has intensely lobbied the national media for an accurate image of the city as operational and functioning, personally calling representatives of every major convention booked in the city to reassure them all is well.

AIDS service agencies report a greater increase in the number of jobless clients than can be directly attributed to the disaster. Landlords are being blamed for using the earthquake as an excuse to evict tenants in order to repair damage that may or may not exist. PWAs account for a significant portion of the more than 14,000 still without permanent homes after nearly two months.

Steve Lew, an AIDS activist with the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance in San Francisco, said, "It's the economics rather than direct damage affecting us. It's disrupted everybody's fundraising plans."

Coordination of support for AIDS agencies serving the people of color communities in the Bay area is being handled by the AIDS Service Providers Organization (ASPO) which pools the efforts of over 80 agencies to make the best use of limited resources. Lew noted that the aggressive scramble for funds is not limited to AIDS agencies alone.

Fundraising efforts are underway throughout California through groups as divergent as the Metropolitan Community Church and S&M-oriented organizations. Financial support for people of color AIDS organizations should be forwarded to ASPO, 10 United Nations Plaza #200, San Francisco, Calif. 94102. For information call Bob Munk at 415-241-5519.

## New Org Forms in N.Y.

YONKERS, N.Y.—A new black gay group has been formed in New York's Westchester County. Called the Gay African Americans of Westchester, the organization is a consciousness-raising support group that discusses issues relevant to the gay and African-American communities.

Meetings, which are scheduled every other week on Thursdays at 8 p.m., focus on topics such as establishing a positive African-American gay self-image, safe sex education, racism and discrimination in Westchester County and African history.

The new organization is also exploring specific actions which can be taken to assist the community in ameliorating problems such as homelessness, drugs, crime and AIDS.

For further information, contact Edward C. Nash, 172 Ravine Ave. #3D, Yonkers, N.Y. 10701-1843, 914-376-0727.

## Ohio Holds Conference on Minority AIDS Issues

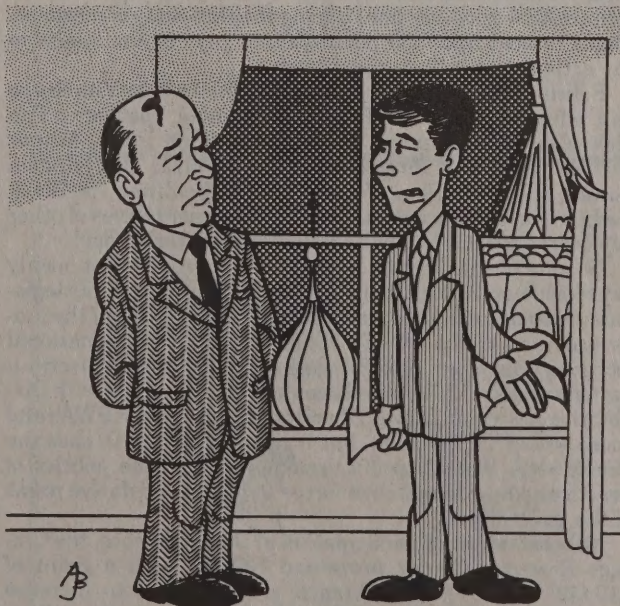
COLUMBUS—The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will hold its fourth annual statewide conference on HIV/AIDS in racial and ethnic populations Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 at the Marriott Inn East. The conference, entitled "Ohio's Racial and Ethnic Communities: Educated, Empowered and Active in the Fight Against AIDS," is designed to enhance and increase the knowledge of individuals from various social and health services about AIDS and its impact on people of color.

"Black and Hispanic individuals comprise less than 20 percent of the total United States population, but more than 40 percent of all AIDS cases reported," said Dr. Ronald L. Fletcher, ODH Director, adding that, "In Ohio, blacks are approximately ten percent of the total population and more than 20 percent of the cases of AIDS reported." Fletcher stressed the need to continue providing culturally appropriate prevention and risk-reduction programs for these communities.

## Program, Stipend for Writers of Color Created

MINNEAPOLIS—The Loft has announced a new program, "Inroads: Writers of Color" intended to serve emerging writers in the black, Latino and Native American communities. An experienced writer from each community will select four emerging writers from that community through an anonymous manuscript submission process.

Each emerging writer will receive a \$150 stipend and will also have the opportunity to discuss his or her work in private conferences with a mentor. The program will culminate with public readings at the community centers and at the Loft. Interested writers of color should call the Loft for additional information at 612-341-0431.



"You know I'm with you a thousand percent on this perestroika thing, Gorbie. But do you really think we're ready for a Soviet BWMT chapter?"



# ACT-UP Plans Two-Day Demonstration in Atlanta

ATLANTA—Lesbian and gay and AIDS activists from around the country will converge on Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 8-9, 1990 for two days of demonstrations to urge repeal of sodomy laws and to demand that the government expand the medical definition of AIDS. Jan. 8 is the opening day of the 1990 Georgia legislature.

"Because these laws effectively define all lesbian and gay men as statutory felons, nowhere is this situation more serious than for African-American lesbian and gays, already viewed as criminals by racist America," said Chip Rowan, one of the facilitators of the planned actions.

Sodomy laws have also been used as justification to prevent AIDS educators from distributing safer sex information and condoms on the grounds that such material condones "illegal" behavior.

"The laws condemn to ignorance people whose lives depend on this information, including teenagers, students, prisoners, and other residents of state or federal institutions, 50 percent of whom are people of color," said Rowan. "Lesbian mothers risk losing their children. Gay bashing is trivialized. The laws promote job and housing discrimination. 'If sodomy is the crime, AIDS is the punishment. Sodomy law repeal is a life-saving measure."

On Jan. 9, demonstrators will demand that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) expand the definition of AIDS beyond its current categories "AIDS" and "AIDS Related Complex" (ARC).

Some experts estimate that one to two million people suffer from HIV-related diseases which manifests themselves in a variety of ways among different groups. "Within the CDC definition, symptoms manifested by women, by African-Americans and other people of color, are ignored," said Rowan. "The CDC definition means that African-Americans with HIV disease are undercounted, undertreated and are dying faster and in alarmingly increasing numbers. Changing the CDC definition of AIDS is not about words. It's about genocide," he said.

Many states extend social and medical benefits to only people with CDC-defined AIDS or ARC, excluding people with other HIV-related illnesses. Clinical drug trials, disability and insurance benefits, and locally-subsidized housing all require a CDC definition of AIDS or ARC for eligibility. While CDC says there are 110,000 people with AIDS, in New York City and Washington D.C., 35 percent of people hospitalized with HIV-related diseases did not fit into the CDC's definitions.

ACT-UP/Atlanta is coordinating both actions. Support and participation has been offered by AIDS and gay rights activists groups around the country including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Association of People with AIDS, and the Atlanta Chapter of African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance.

For more information, contact Chip Rowan, ACT-UP/Atlanta, 685 Argonne St., Atlanta, Ga. 30308, 404-873-1097.

## Watkins Speaks at NGLTF 'Creating Change' Meet

*By Belinda Rochelle, BLK Contributing Writer*

BETHESDA, Md.—"Creating Change" was the theme of the second annual National Gay and Lesbian Task Force conference. Over 450 gay and lesbian activists from across the country attended the conference held here Nov. 10-12.

The NGLTF conference consisted of workshops that covered a wide range of topics that affect gay activists on the local as well as national level. "Gay and Lesbian Leadership," "Unlearning Racism" and "Unlearning Sexism" were three of 48 workshops held during the three-day conference. Topics ranged from the portrayals of gays in the media to gay activism on college campuses.

Former Army Sgt. Perry Watkins joined writer Vito Russo and educator Suzanne Pharr as keynote speakers. Tim McFeeley of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, former NGLTF executive director Virginia Apuzzo and Angela Bowen, co-chairperson of the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, were among the representatives of other gay organizations to facilitate conference workshops.

In spite of the election of Keith St. John, the first openly gay black man to the Albany Common Council, pro-gay legislation was defeated in several state elections. One of the major functions of the NGLTF conference is to define national lobbying strategies. Several workshops focused on discrimination against HIV-infected people. The Americans with Disabilities Act would prevent discrimination against PWAs and those with HIV infection, but it is not expected to pass the House vote. Workshop discussions included the politics of health and how to mobilize forces to target legislative areas of the government.

To boost minority participation at the conference, the Chicago Resource Center presented NGLTF with a grant of \$10,000. "NGLTF is making a sincere effort to increase minority attendance," said Steve Snell, conference coordinator. "We want minorities involved in every aspect of the conference. The money allowed many conference participants

to attend workshops without costs because our goal at this conference is to reach every segment of our community." This year's conference included more workshops to address the concerns of minorities and students. There was also an increase in the number of minority workshop facilitators.

Bowen, served as a facilitator in several workshops including "Shaping the Debate on Family in America." She joined Jim Fagelson of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition in a discussion about the redefinition of family.

This year's conference also included a protest demonstration held in Lafayette Park. Watkins addressed the gathering of 100 people. He is currently challenging the armed services ban of gays from military service. In his speech, Watkins emphasized the necessity of challenging discriminatory practices on all levels. Watkins, in army green, then led the group in a protest march in front of the White House.

The conference also included exhibits and film presentations by dozens of gay organizations and businesses. Next year's conference will be held in Minneapolis, Minn., and then return to the Washington, D.C., area in 1991.

## Gerald, Williams Travel to Protest at AIDS Day

WASHINGTON—Gil Gerald, executive director of the Los Angeles's Minority AIDS Project, and Reggie Williams of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of Black and White Men Together will be among the activists participating in a call for action on World AIDS Day Dec. 1.

A coalition has been organized to protest President George Bush's failure to lead and handle the challenge of the AIDS health crisis. The protest action will involve an organized act of non-violent civil disobedience in front of the White House.



## Sylvia Rhue to Appear at Atlanta Conference

LOS ANGELES—The largest gathering of African-American lesbian and gay artists and writers in the country will take place in Atlanta during the 1990 National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, Feb. 16-19.

Acclaimed Los Angeles filmmaker Sylvia Rhue will be one of the noted presenters of films, videos and multi-media works that will be viewed during the four-day conference.

Lesbian and gay writers, poets and journalists from coast to coast as diverse as Ayofemi Folayan and Assotto Saint will be sharing their works at several readings and performances organized around the conference theme, "Celebrating Our History, Creating Our Future." Special readings are in the works for persons with HIV, women and people in Recovery.

Leonard Simon and Katrice Jackson, curators of the arts program of the third annual conference, are coordinating a national presentation of art that heralds the dawning of a new cultural renaissance for lesbian and gay African-Americans.

Live performances and appearances at the 1989 conference in Los Angeles included Natalie Cole, Chaka Khan, Blackberri, Angela Davis and Sweet Baby J'ai.

The Conference is sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum and hosted by the African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance.

## Navy Man Acquitted of Charges in San Diego

SAN DIEGO—A Navy medical corpsman who is HIV positive was acquitted of sodomy and misconduct charges that arose from allegations he engaged in unprotected sex with another sailor.

"Justice has prevailed," the defendant said after his nonjury court martial ended in an acquittal of all charges. The court-martial judge, Capt. Michael Gerszewski, issued the ruling Oct. 27.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Theophilus Coleman, 24, had faced 15 years imprisonment and a dishonorable discharge if he had been convicted. He had been accused of two counts of sodomy, one count of threatening the other sailor and two counts of misconduct for allegedly endangering him by exposure to HIV.

Coleman's accuser and the government's chief witness, Petty Officer 3rd Class Tino Taylor, was called a liar during closing arguments Oct. 26 by defense attorney Lt. Linda Condra. Taylor repeatedly changed his version of events since February when he accused Coleman of forcing himself on him, Condra charged. Taylor, who was given immunity from prosecution, was not available for comment after the verdict.

Condra said Taylor fabricated the purported encounters with Coleman to avoid prosecution for allegedly being absent without leave for two days.

In his finding, Gerszewski said the prosecution had failed to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and that he was therefore acquitting the defendant.

"The government had no evidence," Coleman said. "It was his word against mine."

Coleman declined to comment on his future in the Navy.

No transfers are being considered for either Coleman or Taylor, who both work at the San Diego Naval Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Pat Kelly.

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# Chris Brownlie Succumbs After Long AIDS Battle

LOS ANGELES—Chris Brownlie, a leading advocate on behalf of people with AIDS, and particularly people of color with AIDS, succumbed to the disease himself on Nov. 28 after a two-and-a-half year battle.

Brownlie—along with Phill Wilson, his lover of nearly ten years, and Michael Weinstein—was a founder and served on the board of the AIDS Hospice Foundation an organization which designed, agitated for, and established the first licensed residential hospice for people in the final stages of AIDS in Los Angeles County. At its opening on Dec. 26, 1988, in honor of his work to bring it into being, the facility was named "The Chris Brownlie Hospice."

In 1985 and 1986, as one of the Minority AIDS Project's (MAP) first volunteers, Brownlie designed MAP's computer information system. According to MAP founder Rev. Carl Bean, he also carried in and set up the first bed in Dignity House, a shelter for homeless persons with AIDS.

In addition, Brownlie was active in many other aspects of AIDS care advocacy. This year he was a key figure in the successful effort to open a designated AIDS care ward at County-USC Hospital. In 1986 Brownlie worked with other activists to create and manage the Stop AIDS Quarantine Committee. In 1983 Brownlie was among the AIDS Project Los Angeles's early hotline trainees.

In Feb. 1987, after spending three days in a teeming admissions ward at County-USC Hospital, Brownlie was diagnosed with AIDS. From that time until his death, he was active in the movement for AIDS Hospice care—while surviving eight bouts of pneumocystis pneumonia, two attacks of cryptococcus meningitis, and a potentially blinding CMV retinitis infection.

Through his "Liberation Politics" column in *The News*, Brownlie became prominent in the Los Angeles gay and lesbian community as a journalist. He was featured in Nancy Salter's *KCET Journal* about the Chris Brownlie Hospice, *Living the Last Days*. His most recent writing is scheduled to be published in *L.A. Weekly*.

Brownlie, whose lifemate, Wilson, was African-American, was also an ardent interracialist. Prior to his AIDS activism, he focused on a number of projects promoting the interests of people of color. He was co-founder and co-owner, with Wilson in 1983, of Black is More Than Beautiful, Inc., which published the first mainstream photographic calendar featuring black men, as well as a line of family greeting cards targeting black consumers.

Beginning in 1985, Brownlie served three years on the board of directors of Black and White Men Together/Los

Angeles (BWMT), an organization whose political outreach Brownlie significantly extended, and whose popular, weekly consciousness-raising sessions he co-facilitated with Wilson.

When Wilson persuaded BWMT to co-sponsor the first annual Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Conference in Los Angeles in 1988, Brownlie urged BWMT to take a backseat in staging the event in order to encourage the involvement of more African-Americans. Still playing the conciliator, Brownlie worked closely throughout 1989 with black and white AIDS activists to salvage a controversial plan to open an AIDS hospice in South-Central L.A. The South-Central hospice is expected to open in 1990.

In August of this year, Brownlie assisted in bringing openly gay South African anti-apartheid activist Simon Nkoli to Los Angeles. Brownlie's last birthday was spent participating in a literary event honoring Nkoli during his visit.

Brownlie had been active in lesbian and gay politics since the early 1970s when he was one of the original activists at L.A.'s Gay Community Services Center. He was also active in the Lavender and Red Union.

A memorial service will be held on Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles, 2936 W. 8th.

Chris Brownlie was born in Farmington, New York on Aug. 27, 1950. He is survived by his lover, Phill Wilson; his father, Robert Brownlie; a sister; and two brothers.

## BLK VEIL

### ELRAY SANDERS ANDREWS

Elray Sanders Andrews died Oct. 30, 1989, two days after his 31st birthday, according to San Francisco's *B.A.R.* Andrews was a member of Black and White Men Together and worked for the Chevron Corporation. He is survived by his lover, Redge; mother, Estella; father and stepmother, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Andrews; three sisters, Debra, Brenda and Frankie; and brother, Allen.

### THOMAS PEACE

Thomas Peace, born in 1937, died this year of complications from AIDS according to San Francisco's *B.A.R.* In his final months, he was cared for by St. Mary's Hospital. Memorial offerings should be made to Project Open Hand or the AIDS Emergency Fund.

### KELLY PRESTON SYLVESTER

Kelly Preston Sylvester, a community activist, died Oct. 24 of complications from AIDS according to the *Washington Blade*. He was 45. Born in Elizabeth City, N.C., Sylvester attended Elizabeth City State University. In the late 1970s, he began working at Newman Bookstore where he continued until retiring recently. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Annie Mae and Charles Jones of Washington.

### ERIC WESLEY WILSON

Washington, D.C. resident Eric Wesley Wilson, 27, died Oct. 24, of lymphoma according to the *Washington Blade*. Originally from Fort Benning, Ga., Wilson attended the University of Virginia where he majored in English with a concentration in journalism. He worked for *National Geographic Magazine* and the *Washington News Letter*. He is survived by his parents, Wesley and Elaine, of Gloucester, Va.

## Jewell, Byrd Plan New Black Lesbian Journal

ITHACA—A black lesbian literary anthology is currently being organized to present the wide diversity within the black lesbian experience. Editors Terri Jewell and Stephanie Byrd are accepting poetry and short fiction for the anthology. All topics are acceptable for review and experimental forms are encouraged.

Jewell, a writer and poet, has had her work published in over 300 magazine worldwide and was a recent nominee for the Pushcart Prize for poetry. Byrd is also a writer and poet whose published works include two books of poetry as well as essays and article in various alternative periodicals.

Submissions may be made to Terri Jewell, 211 W. Saginaw #2, Lansing, Mich. 48933 and short fiction to Stephanie Boyd, 705 E. Seneca #7, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.



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# WE NEVER CLOSE



# Book News

By Mark Haile

Over 600 books by and about lesbians and gays hit the shelves in 1988, according to Richard LaBonte, manager of A Different Light bookstore in San Francisco. For 1989, that number will not only be surpassed, but will have included a record number of titles by African Americans.

Many of the most popular titles of 1989 have actually been out for some time, but continue to reach the hands of gay and lesbian African Americans for the first time, especially the landmark anthology by the late Joe Beam, *In the Life*. Joining it on the bookshelves is the *Pyramid Quarterly*, an anthology of essays, poetry and short stories by lesbian and gay people of color that grows with every issue. *Other Countries*, first out in 1988, is an ongoing collection of black gay voices from many nations, reminding us that the black gay experience extends far beyond America's borders.

In *A Different Light*, the most ambitious lesbian anthology of 1989, has a considerable number of contributions by women of color, among them Ayofemi Folayan, SDiane Bogus and Terri De La Peña. *Intricate Passions*, edited by Tee Corinne, also deserves special note for inclusivity of lesbians of color.

In poetry, 1989 was bountiful from coast to coast, with *At the Club* by Alan Miller of Oakland and *Stations* by Assotto Saint in New York.

Black lesbian poetry, already far more advanced than their black gay male counterparts, has been further enriched by collections released by two of the community's most talented muses, *Healing Hearts* by Gloria T. Hull and *Dyke Hands and Sutras Erotic and Lyric* by SDiane Bogus.

While Christmas is traditionally a peak season for books, the early months of 1990 will see no less than a half dozen anthologies of poetry, short stories and essays by lesbian and gay men of color dealing with specific topics such as coming out or immigration to poetry or erotica.



"I have no idea what this case is about, but I wouldn't miss it for the world."

## NEW BOOKS OF 1989

- Corbin, Raymond. *1990 Facts about Blacks*. Beckham House. Paper/Non-fiction. \$10.95.  
 Corbin, Steven. *No Easy Place To Be*. Simon and Schuster. Hard/fiction. \$13.95.  
 Duplechan, Larry. *Tangled Up In Blue*. St. Martins. Hard/fiction. \$16.95.  
 Fleming, Mickey C. *About Courage*. Holloway. Paper/Autobiography. \$2.95.  
 Jaynes, Gerald and Williams, Robin M., Jr. *A Common Destiny—Blacks and American Society*. National Academy Press. Hard/Non-fiction. \$35.00.  
 Kennedy, Ellen Conroy. *The Negritude Poems*. Thunder's-mouth Press. Hard/Poetry. \$10.95.  
 Miller, Alan. *At the Club*. Grand Entrances Press. Paper/Poetry. \$6.00.  
 Ottenberg, Raymond. *Boyhood Rituals in African Society*. University of Washington Press. Hard/Non-fiction.  
 Russell, Diana. *Lives of Courage—Women for a New South Africa*. Basic Books. Hard/Non-fiction. \$22.95.  
 Saint, Assotto. *Stations*. Galiens Press. Paper/Poetry. \$7.00.  
 Troupe, Quincy. *James Baldwin: The Legacy*. Simon and Schuster. Hard/Non-fiction. \$12.95.  
 Weatherly, W.S. *James Baldwin: Artist on Fire*. Hard/Non-fiction. \$19.95.

## OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST

- Baldwin, James. *Another Country*. Dell. Paper/Fiction. \$5.95.  
 Baldwin, James. *The Fire Next Time*. Dell. Paper/Fiction. \$4.95.  
 Baldwin, James. *Giovanni's Room*. Dell. Paper/Fiction. \$4.95.  
 Baldwin, James. *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. Dell. Paper/Fiction. \$4.95.  
 Baldwin, James. *If Beale Street Could Talk*. Dell. Paper/Fiction. \$4.95.  
 Bambard, Tom Cade. *The Salt Eaters*. Vintage. Paper/Fiction. \$5.95.  
 Beam, Joe. *In the Life*. Alyson. Soft/Nonfiction. \$8.95.  
 Bulig, Ronald. *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies and Bucks—An Interpretive History of Blacks in American Films*. Continuum. Hard/Non-fiction. \$15.95.  
 Clarice, Cheryl. *Living as a Lesbian*. Firebrand Books. Paper/Poetry. \$6.98.  
 Clinton, John. *Billie's Blues*. DeCapo Press. Paper/Biography. \$17.95.  
 Collier, James Lincoln. *Duke Ellington*. Oxford Press. Paper/Biography. \$9.95.  
 Cornell, Ann. *Black Lesbians in White America*. Naiad Press. Paper/Non-fiction. \$7.50.  
 Dahl, Linda. *Stormy Weather—Music and Lives of a Century of Jazzwomen*. Limelight. Paper/Biography. \$14.95.  
 Davies, Miranda. *Third World, Second Sex—Vol. 1 and 2*. Tod Books. Paper/Fiction. \$15.00.  
 Davis, Angela. *Violence Against Women and the Ongoing Challenge to Racism*. Kitchen Table. Paper/Essays. \$3.50.  
 Delany, Samuel. *The Motion of Light on Water*. Plume. Paper/Autobiography. \$8.95.  
 Duplechan, Larry. *Black Bird*. St. Martins. Hard/Fiction. \$7.95.  
 Duplechan, Larry. *Eight Days a Week*. Alyson. Paper/Fiction. \$4.95.  
 Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man*. Vintage. Paper/Non-fiction.  
 Giddings, Paula. *When and Where/Enter the Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*. Bantam. \$8.95.  
 Harris, Bell. *Ain't I a Woman?—Black Women and Feminism*. South End Press. Paper/Non-fiction. \$10.00.  
 Hemphill, Essex. *Conditions*. Beboop Books. Paper/Poetry.  
 Hemphill, Essex. *Earthlife*. Beboop Books. Paper/Poetry.  
 Hooks, Bell. *Talking Back—Thinking Feminist—Thinking*



*Black*. South End Press. Paper/Non-fiction. \$10.00.

Hull, Gloria. *Color, Sex and Poetry—Three Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance*. University of Iowa Press. Hard/Biography. \$8.95.

Hull, Gloria. *Give Us This Day—The Diary of Alice Dunbar-Nelson*. Norton. Paper/Biography. \$8.95.

Hull, Gloria. *Healing Heart*. Kitchen Table. Hard/Poetry. \$8.95.

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Dust Tracks on a Road. Autobiography of Zora Neale Hurston*. Illini Press. Hard/Autobiography. \$8.95.

Kersan, Randall. *A Visitation of Spirits*. Grove Press. Hard/Fiction. \$17.95.

Levin, Robert and Rivelli, Pauline. *Giants of Black Music*. Decapo. Paper/Biography. \$7.95.

Lewis, David Lovering. *When Harlem Was in Vogue*. Oxford University Press. Hard/Non-fiction. \$10.95.

Linthwaite, Ilina. *Ain't I a Woman?* Peter Bodrick Books. Paper/Poetry. \$14.95.

Lorde, Audre. *A Burst of Light*. Firebrand. Paper/Essays. \$7.95.

Lorde, Audre. *Apartheid, U.S.A.* Crossing Press. Paper/Essays. \$3.50.

Lorde, Audre. *The Black Unicorn*. Norton. Paper/Poetry. \$7.95.

Lorde, Audre. *Cancer Journals*. Spinster. Paper/Essays. \$5.50.

Lorde, Audre. *I Am Your Sister*. Kitchen Table. Paper/Essays. \$2.95.

Lorde, Audre. *Our Dead Behind Us*. Norton. Paper/Poetry. \$6.75.

Lorde, Audre. *Sister Outsider*. Crossing Press. Paper/Essays. \$8.95.

Lorde, Audre. *Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power*. Crossing Press. \$3.00.

Lorde, Audre. *Zami—A New Spelling of My Name*. Crossing Press. Paper/Non-fiction. \$8.95.

Naylor, Gloria. *The Women of Brewster Place*. Penguin. Paper/Fiction. \$3.95.

O'Daniel, Therman B. *James Baldwin: A Critical Evaluation*. Howard University Press. Paper/Non-fiction. \$7.95.

Omelade, Barbara. *It's a Family Affair: The Real Lives of Black Single Mothers*. Kitchen Table Press. Paper/Non-fiction. \$3.50.

Parker, Pat. *Jonestown*. Firebrand. Paper/Poetry. \$5.95.

Robeson, Susan. *The Whole World in His Hands—A Pictorial Biography of Paul Robeson*. Citadel. Paper/Biography. \$22.50.

Rose, Phyllis. *Jazz Cleopatra—Josephine Baker in Her Time*. Doubleday. Hard/Biography. \$22.50.

Shange, Ntozake. *Three Pieces (Three Plays)*. Penguin. Hard/Theater. \$5.95.

Shockley, Ann Allen. *Afro-American Women Writers 1746-1933*. Meridian. Paper/Non-fiction. \$14.95.

Smith, Michael J. *Black Men/White Men*. Gay Sunshine Press. Paper/Non-fiction. \$8.95.

Thomas, Russ. *Just Before Jazz: Black Musical Theatre in New York 1890-1915*. Smithsonian. Hard/Non-fiction. \$8.95.

Tolson, Melvin. *A Gallery of Harlem Portraits*. University of Missouri Press. Paper/Biography. \$8.95.

Walker, Alice. *In Love and in Trouble*. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. Paper/Fiction. \$3.95.

Walker, Alice. *Living by the Word: Selected Writings 1973-1988—Alice Walker*. Harvest. \$8.95.

Walker, Alice. *The Temple of My Familiar*. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. Hard. \$19.95.

Walker, Alice. *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. Paper/Fiction. \$4.95.

Walker, Alice. *You Can't Keep a Good Woman Down*. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. \$4.95.

Weathers, Carolyn and Wilson, Jenny. *In a Different Light*. Paper/Fiction.

## FOR BLACK GAY & BISEXUAL MEN ONLY!

So you know all about safe sex. But you don't believe safe sex can be good sex. Then you don't know all about safe sex. Let us show you how to make safe sex good sex.

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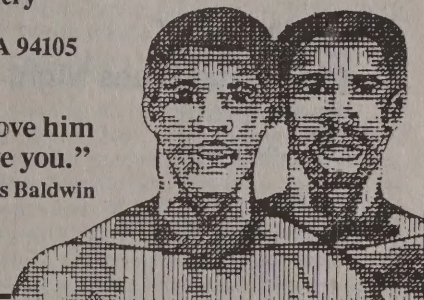
Because we know you care, please contact:

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Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 597-9137

"Love him...Love him  
and let him love you."

—James Baldwin

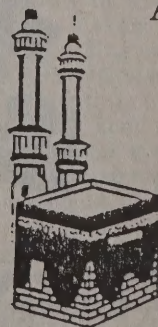
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\* Fez \* Beni Mellal  
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AUGUST 18-28, 1990



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# CAPER ROOM

## *3rd Year Anniversary*

December 17 at 3 p.m.

### VARIETY SHOW INCLUDING LIP SYNC

Guest Vocal Artist and Dancing

Free Buffet and Champagne

Buffet starts at 4 p.m.

Shows start at 6 p.m. and Midnight

*Come celebrate with us!!*

### SUNDAY

Oldies and Blues Night

4 p.m.-2 a.m.

NO COVER

### MONDAY

New Lip Sync Show

Host: Jimmy Carter

Starting in January

10 p.m.-2 a.m.

NO COVER

Happy Hour

4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Well drinks \$1.25

### TUESDAY

Exotic Male and Female

Review and Disco Night

Showtime 11 p.m.-2 a.m.

\$4 cover charge

Happy Hour

4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Well drinks \$1.25

### WEDNESDAY

Social Hour 2 for 1

Well drinks only

8 p.m.-Midnight

NO COVER

Happy Hour

4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Well drinks \$1.25

### THURSDAY

NO COVER

Happy Hour

4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Meet and Greet

### FRIDAY

Exotic Male and Female

Review and Disco

Showtime 11 p.m.-2 a.m.

\$4 cover charge

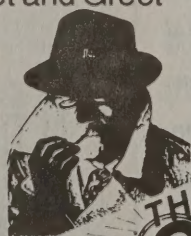
Happy Hour

4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Well drinks \$1.25

### SATURDAY

Disco All Night!



THE NEW  
**CAPER**  
LOUNGE

**Saturday, December 16**

*Birthday Party for Byron Williams at 9 p.m.*

**Saturday, December 23**

*Christmas Party—Christmas Show and Special Christmas Drinks*

**Sunday, December 31**

*New Year's Eve Party—Show and Extravaganza*

244 South Market Street, Inglewood, California 90301 — (213) 677-0403



# Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

Awop bop a loo mop alop bam boom. The maker of such hits as "Tutti Frutti," "Good Golly, Miss Molly," "Lucille," "Long Tall Sally" and "Jenny, Jenny" was born on the fifth of this month in 1932. After scaling the heights of the music biz and announcing that he was gay, **Little Richard** surprised everyone by returning to his church roots, rebuking rock 'n' roll, and claiming not to be tutti frutti...Saying that the major record labels neglect black artists, **Spike Lee** has created his own, **Apollo Theater Records**. **Easy-E**, an NWA, also has his own label, **Comptown Records**, which will be distributed by **MCA**. The label's first release reportedly will feature white female teen rapper, **Tairrie D...Olivia Records**, which also does things with passenger ships as well as in recording studios, has scheduled a four-night women-only cruise to the Bahamas Feb. 12-16 and 19-23. Passengers leave Miami aboard the S.S. Dolphin IV with stops in Key West, Nassau and a day at a private island, Blue Lagoon. All of Olivia's artists will perform including **Deidre McCalla**, who will add "color" to the proceedings. OR's number is 415-655-0364...If Morocco is more to your taste, give **Betty Powell** a call at 213-674-0291...

Kudos given out by the L.A. chapter of the **Southern Christian Leadership Conference** caused a stir in some quarters. But we can see both sides...**Ann Landers** recently asked folks to write to her telling what they think about legalizing same-sex relationships. Let's make sure she gets some Afro input. Ann Landers, *Chicago Tribune*, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Mich. 60611...The most interesting foto in the Dec. 1989 issue of **Ebony** appears on page 116...

Last month at L.A.'s **Catch One Disco**, one young white woman got down to the root of things quite literally. Apparently she was found on bended knee with her mouth full in the Roots Room worshipping a young black man (gay or straight, we don't know) in one of the most intimate ways possible. Both participants were immediately (and quietly) escorted from the premises...

Everyone wants something...Individuals who have experienced anti-gay violence should contact **Anjie Rosga**, Rosgood Productions, Box 994, New York, N.Y. 10009...Men who would like to participate in a study called, "The Movement of Black Gay Men in America," should write **Rodney A. Christopher**, Simon's Rock of Bard College, Great Barrington, Mass. 01230...Black lesbians who would like to help with a master's thesis on "identity formation," should call **Darlene Angela** at 415-821-9207...Black lesbian or gay veterans who wish to recall their military experiences for an article in C.A.R.E. should call **Edward Westrick** at 213-662-3635...Men over 40 interested in participating in a study about patterns of aging among African-American gay and bisexual men should contact **Dr. Clarence Lancelot Adams** at 212-724-6650 or **Dr. Douglas Kimmel** at 212-690-5364. They would especially like to hear from men over 55...

**Judy Jones**, who does an act in which she *pretends* to be plastered (and we stress *pretends* because some folks thought our comment last month was subject to misinterpretation), has been on the boards since the fifties. Though she sang a few notes with Dionne Warwick, her career actually got started with the Bradford Singers and James Cleveland. Later, she sang with Patti LaBelle. Over the years, she has appeared in *Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and the New York production of *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God*. Since coming to the Catch 18 years ago, Judy has hosted and entertained numerous community

events...By the way, everything that appears here that's even *potentially* embarrassing, now gets signed off by the person involved, just like **Candid Camera**. And just like **Candid Camera**, our intent is to have fun "watching people in the act of being themselves."... For those brothers with time on their hands who want to start something: How about going after our common enemies rather than the home folk? Last month, **Leon Miller's** "Word Up" made mention of homophobic, racist and/or sexist comments by **Geraldo Rivera**, **Schoolly D** and **2 Live Crew**. Did any petitions get started to get Garaldo to apologize? We guess it's easier to look for ghosts where there are none rather than take on a hard fight of some real significance...For the record, Judy says she had nothing to do with the entreaty that was circulated...And, by the way, if we *do* make a mistake (and we're only human so it'll happen), a simple letter to the editor is mighty effective. Our esteemed editor can be somewhat of a wimp on this point, trying so hard to be fair—and we dare you to cut this—that he fails to take a stand on *anything*. Be glad we're not the editor...

You probably know about **Black Forest's** "Body Black" wall calendar for men; their ads are plastered all over the place. But did you know about the **Tee Corinne's** "Lesbian Muse" appointment calendar (Chance Publications, 2003 N.E. 13th, Portland, Ore. 97212) and **D.L. Mackey's** "Women Only" wall calendar (Nur Damen, 13601 E. Whittier #212, Whittier, CA 90605)? While BFP's opus is stone coal black with color photos, the two lesbian entries are both black and white in more ways than one. We'd tell you which of the two we prefer, but we're probably an unqualified judge.

There are slightly more than the average number of black-oriented major studio movies this Christmas. In current release are **Harlem Nights** (about **Eddie Murphy** being a movie star), **Thelmonious Monk: Straight No Chaser** (a boring documentary with good music), **Sidewalk Stories** (a sweet black and white movie with no dialogue and one quick frontal nude scene) and **Mapantsula** (an anti-apartheid movie made under the noses of the authorities in South Africa). Upcoming are **Driving Miss Daisy** (based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning play) and **Glory** (a story about America's first black infantry regiment)...We hope you saw the piece on **Stanley Bennett Clay** in the Nov. 24 **L.A. Times** "Calendar" section. Clay currently has two productions going in L.A.: **Ritual** at the Ebony Showcase (which he wrote, produced and directed) and **Jonin'** at the Harman Avenue Theater (which he directed). He was recently the subject of a KACE salute...

Life in St. Croix has yet to return to normal after the disastrous hurricane Hugo cut through the Virgin Islands Sept. 18. According to **Aché**, many areas still have no electricity, gas or telephone service. Black lesbian poet **Audre Lorde**, a resident, is on the case, but needs our help says **Andrea Canaan**. Send nylon rope, blank journals, local gay and lesbian papers, cards, letters and keep those "D" batteries coming! Address: Audre Lorde, A-2 Judith's Fancy, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820...

A bit of Old Black Gay History—1970s variety—has been restored to the Big Apple. **Better Days** is open again, and at the same location. We don't know if it's true, but we hear told that Better Days yields better knights...**Rudy**, the lead DJ at Jacksonville, Florida's **Third Dimension**, was ship-shape Halloween Night, all gussied up in Navy drag. Anyone remember when this Florida native started out 10 years ago at the **Old Planation**?...Down at the tip of Florida in Hallandale, **Loleatta Holloway** performed at the opening of Club 21...Black hunk, **Mr. Christopher**, was a runner-up in the Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin pageant...**Sir Lady Java**, the transexual starlet, will appear at Marla's Memory Lane on Dec. 4...By the way, **Warren Beatty** and **Madonna** went dancing at L.A.'s **Horizon** last month...



# BLK MARKET

## ANNOUNCEMENTES

Free portrait! For details: Box 89, NYC 10012. (15)

Happy holidays to: Phillip, Heavy C (Gregory) and the Boys (Terry, Donald, Clyde, Oscar), Alan, the men to BGME, Tracy (Cupid), Arvin, Sharon, Leon, Trevor, Dwight, Joseph, Scott and Jerry, Anthony, Alton, John, George and Ron, Olu, Bob, Ernie and Ken, Patricia, Eartha, Cleo, Ron, the staff of BLK, Felix, Michael and Carlos, Tim, Hershel and Arthur. We spent a great deal of time this year doing what we do best: sharing. I learned a lot. Thanks. Here's hoping the 90s are as gay as they ever were. GOG. Love, Michael. (13)

Registry contains hundreds of photos of available gay men in Southern California and information on contacting them. We're currently accepting photos for our next edition. For a free application, write or call today. Registry Publications, 1317 N. San Fernando Blvd. #301, Burbank, CA 91504. 818-566-3560. (13)

MC: "Don't worry. Be happy." Take SC lessons and call me late one evening. "Get off the shelf, and enjoy yourself." Remember that one? AB. (13)

## SERVICES

Xcelivision. Black skin care. Diet control. Massage therapy. Physical/mental exercises. 40-page work booklet \$10. Call Maleko 213-465-2551. (16)

## EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Gay black male seeking general house work. Everything but windows. Smile. Good references. Honest, hard worker. Reasonable. \$30 up a day. Call anytime, day or night. 213-622-9635. Charles Thomas. (11)

## EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Dept.: Accounting Assistant, to 26 hrs./week. \$10-\$12/hour, DOE. Youth Services: Youth Advocate for residential facility; late afternoon/evening/overnight shifts. \$1392/mo. Also p.t., on-call positions open, \$8.03/hour. Intake worker, for intake and assessment of new youth clients, \$1507/mo. Counseling: Mental health clinician for Latino Program Development, \$2386-\$2608/mo. Education Dept.: Assistant Outreach Specialist to Latino community, p.t., \$846/mo. Project Coordinator, West Hollywood CARES \$2319/mo. Vocational Services: Job Developer, \$1646/mo. + bonus. Employment Specialist, \$2021/mo. Intake Worker, \$1815/mo. Program Coordinator,

\$2215/mo. All full-time employees receive medical and dental benefits. Send resume to: Karen Aitchison, Director of Administration, GLCSC, 1213 N. Highland Ave., L.A., CA 90038. (13)

Amazing 3-D Camera. Our independent reps are making \$10-30,000 per month. It's so easy. There's no competition as it's a one-of-kind camera that uses standard 35mm film. Part-time or full-time. Stop being financially crippled! Call Alex now! 213-465-8583. (14)

Cook/Instructor. Gay and lesbian alcohol treatment program seeks qualified food prep/service trainer to develop, implement and run a vocational training program within our existing 90-day resident care facility. For more information, contact Michael Kerr, Van Ness Recovery House 213-463-4266. (14)

Illustrator. If you'd like exposure and you're willing to put in time for almost no pay, call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Will train the right person. (13)

Lapis Outreach Specialist (Prevention Services): Duties—Organize, develop and manage mailing list for black and Latina lesbians; maintain extensive networking contacts; plan, schedule and staff special events; organize, schedule and facilitate presentations. Qualifications—Thorough knowledge of lesbians of color; experience in group facilitation, providing training in prevention, alcoholism, women's services or to people of color; experience with basic organizing concepts, including networking skills, planning, scheduling, implementing workshops, special events and community outreach; established professional network system in L.A. County. Annual salary—\$16,000-\$18,000. Contact—Clarissa Chandler, ACW, 1147 S. Alvarado St., L.A. 90006. 213-381-7805. (13)

Managing Editor for Equal Time, a non-profit biweekly newspaper for lesbians and gay men serving the Upper Midwest. The managing editor is the chief administrative and editorial officer and reports directly to the board of directors. Responsible for the content and quality of the newspaper and for the supervision of all departments. Requirements: B.A. journalism or related area and news writing experience, editing experience with a publication, preferably a newspaper, supervisory/management experience essential, knowledge of gay/lesbian issues, proven ability to work independently and to set and meet strict deadlines. Excellent interpersonal skills. Salary range: \$18-\$22,000. Send letter of application, resume, writing and editing samples to: Search Committee, Board of Directors, Equal Time newspaper, 711 W. Lake St. #505, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Equal Time is an affirmative action employer. (13)

## ORGANIZATIONS

Secular Recovery Anonymous/ 12 Step, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. Mixed. (13)

## COMPUTER STUFF

"An Uncommon Call." 213-465-3114. Public access BBS. 8N1. 300-2400 baud. 24 hour. Celebrating life/grass-roots, gospel, dependency/recovery. (14)

## WANTED

Used preamp, low-end audiophile quality, such as the Conrad-Johnson PV4, the Hafler DH-110 or the NAD 1020. Also want AR or Sonographe turntable. Alan 213-410-0808. (13)

Black lesbian and gay poetry magazine accepting submissions. Send with SASE to Ayofemi Stowe Folayan or Mark Haile, Kuumba, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. (TF)

Black Lace, the first African-American lesbian erotic magazine, desires women interested in nude modeling. You could be featured in our very first issue! Contact Alycee at 213-410-0808. (TF)

Trashy black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new quarterly. Quality work also accepted. Send with SASE to Revon Kyle Banneker, Editor, Blackfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90012-0912. Allow six weeks for response. (TF)

## PLACES TO LIVE

BGM seeks roommate for 2 bedroom apt. Rent \$375 per month plus half utilities. Full privileges. Nice area. Security deposit negotiable. Call 213-39-7494. (No drugs) (13)

Black gay man looking for roommate to share 3-bedroom house. \$375 per month including utilities. Dishwasher. Washer/dryer. Large backyard. 213-274-3398. Ask for Paul. (13)

Young professional male seeks same to share 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment in North Inglewood. Fully carpeted. Cable TV. Available November 1, 1989. Move in requires first, last and one month's security. 213-419-4249. (14)

## FOR SALE

Get the hottest fantasy items ever sold (lingerie, movies, love aids, etc.). Discount prizes for men and women. 92-page catalog \$8. Marial Enterprises, 158 E. 26th, Paterson, NJ 07514. (13)

Miles of music: 25+ years of soul. Lo-cate tunes you choose. 213-937-3190.

(15)  
AIDS is biological warfare. Call 213-977-0901. (14)

BLK T-shirts now available. White cotton/polyester with BLK logo in red on front, and the slogan "Where the news is colored on purpose" in black on back. Specify medium or large. \$10 including shipping. Check or money order (no cash) to: BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083. (TF)

## MASSEURS

Strong hands. Great massage. Ray 213-653-1889. (15)

Black bodybuilder. Holiday treat. Best full body massage. Venice Beach. 213-396-4761. 7 days. 24 hours. (13)

Holistic massage. Enjoy relaxing, therapeutic touch. Swedish/Esalen massage with acupressure to help relieve stress and muscle tension. Call for appt. Gift certificates available also. Matthew Logan. 213-650-7483. (15)

Beautiful black body, 6'5", 210#, lean hard muscles, deep-tissue full-body therapeutic massage. In/out. 213-465-2551. Maleko. (16)

Certified massage by white 24 year old. In-calls 24 hours. Late evenings best. Put yourself in my hands. Russ. 818-784-6929. (18)

## PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

GWM, 45, 6', Aquarian, very passive teddy-bear, professional, seeks top BM for good times. I like wine, music, reading, swimming and satisfying a masculine guy. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991 (TF)

## PERSONALS EASTERN U.S.

GWM, 28, 6', 155 lbs., blond/blue, boyish, cute and very sexy, wants in-shape GBM for hot evenings, possible relationship. NYC only. BLK Mailbox 21. (13)

BM, 38, 5'8", 240#, masc., Gr/A-Fr/P, HIV-, prof. seeks chubby, HIV- GM for long-term 1-to-1 commitment. Ph/ph, write: Walton, Box 22864, Newark, NJ 07101. (13)

Tall, thin GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (13)

NJ GWM ISO GBM (anywhere) for sexual lover. 609-989-1260. (14)

Attractive, young BM, seeks lover. Box 211, Cape Coral, FL 33910. (E)

Escape danger, mediocrity and oppression into South Texas youth cooperative home offering diversity in entertainment,



security, beauty and access to adventure. Write about yourself to Box 475, Big Pine Key, FL 33043. (E)

GWM, 45, seeks GM, any color, for friendship, safe fun, movies, shopping, dance, music (especially Motown). No drugs or smokes. Honest and discreet only. Boxholder, Box 1295, Middletown, CT 06457. (E)

### PERSONALS CENTRAL U.S.

GBM inmate John Murphy #8533-15-5A, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (15)

32-year-old professional, career-oriented BM seeks intense one-on-one relationship with mature black man. Friendship first. Age, looks not important. 6'3", 200 lbs. Photo if interested. 3594 Meadowbrook, University, OH 44118. (15)

GBM, 28, 5'8". Shy, sensuous, moody, strange sense of humor. Love lots of attention. Interested in meeting people. Marc. Box 408931, Chicago, IL 60640-8931. (13)

Professional GBM, 38, approximately 5'11", average build, seeking muscular, tall, GBM between 25-40 years. Write Fritz, Box 390, Chicago 60690-0390. (15)

GBM seeks correspondence. C. Benford, Ave. I, Greenwood, MS 38930. (14)

Looking for inexpensive accommodations and host/guide during National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference in Atlanta (February 14-25). Marc, Box 408931, Chicago, IL 60640-8931. (13)

Bi/W/M bodybuilder Robert Jenkins #855856, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (14)

BM seeks correspondence. R.L. Williams #3725-3-1B, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064. (14)

W/IL men sought. You hung at least 8+ thick. Travel S.E. WI and Chicago area for passionate Fr/Gr (safe) sex. Mark, Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (14)

Looking to share expenses (non-driver) Chicago to Atlanta for (NBGL) Conference in Atlanta February 15-19. Marc, Box 408931, Chicago, IL 60640-8931. (13)

Slim WM seeks BMs. Box 4222, East Lansing, MI 48826. 517-484-6505. (13)

Very handsome muscular WM, 31. Box 138-232, Chicago, IL 60613. (14)

BM, attractive, masculine, professional, muscular, swimmer's build, 20 y.o., 5'11", 175. lbs., seeks friendship/relationship with similar. Race, age unimportant. Box 28100, Dallas, TX 75228. (E)

Blk couple, 23 & 27, seeks other couple/single for friendship. Other things possible. Send photo. Write to 1315 S. 1st #5, Louisville, KY 40203. (E)

GBM, 28, 5'8", shy, sensuous, moody, strange sense of humor. Love lots of attention. Interested in meeting people.

Marc, Box 408931, Chicago, IL 60640. (E)

### PERSONALS WESTERN U.S.

Picture this: A human hot fudgesundae! My white, firm buns with you as the hot topping. If you're a GBM or Latino that is young and hung, send your name, number and the best time to call to: A.T., Box 69A75, LA, CA 90069. (13)

GWM, 60, 6'1", 200, HIV-, no smoke, drink or drugs, seeks very goodlooking black man for one-on-one permanent relationship. Serious, but fun. Photo/phone. Box 2342, Palm Springs, CA 92263. (14)

Healthy, hung, bi Creole male, good-looking, 30, 5'11", 175 lbs., seeks one-to-one relationship with healthy, hung, goodlooking black male under 30, under 5'11", with slim build. If you are tired of the club scene, looking for that special someone, look no further! Send letter and phone number. Serious only! No Games! J.R., Box 56015, L.A., Calif. 90056. (13)

Venice Beach—Half Japanese/white seeks sincere GBM for possibilities! 213-399-3622. (13)

GBM homebody, 50s, 166, 5'11", with moustache seeks friendship with trim sincere person under 5 inches. Any race. Non-smoker. No drugs, drags. To 60. L.A. area. BLK Mailbox 20. (13)

Professional, dominant black top wanted, over 35, by goodlooking, WM, 35, bottom, BB, 46" C, 17" A, 33" W, kinky hot butt. Must have a professional career. Call Marc 714-847-9722. (13)

Handsome, German GWM, 48, 5'7", beard, versatile, know what a man needs, seeks handsome BM top, 30-55±, honest, for good times, real relationship possible. Photo/phone and/or address. BLK Mailbox #19. (13)

Attractive fun-lovin', GBM, 35, seeks guys for friendship, fun and good times. No booze or drugs. Honest a must. Mick. 213-738-6009. (13)

Carl from Lomita. Call Alex 818-896-8890. Gave wrong number. (13)

European photographer, 29, seeks massive black bodybuilder over 230 lbs. to appear in foreign bodybuilding magazine. Box 69A27, L.A. 90069. (14)

Handsome, masculine GWM gives great head to well-built hung men. Box 4751, North Hollywood, CA 91617. (14)

Cute, GWM, 35, 6', 175, professional, straight-appearing and acting. I'm outgoing. Seeks same, any race for friendship and relationship. Photo and phone a must. Box 191328, Sacramento, CA 95819. (14)

I eat black ass. Box 86651, LA 90086. Me white. (15)

BM, handsome, 138 lbs., 5'4", 36. Afrocentric. Movies, dining out, traveling. No drugs, alcohol, smoking. Looking for Afrocentric-minded friend and more, between 30 and 45. Letters with phone



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■ **Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.

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■ **Billing** is available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge \$15. *Credit must be approved in advance.* Application on request.

■ **Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK mailbox for \$5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

■ **Replying to a BLK mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

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BLK Classifieds  
Box 83912  
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

■ **Rules and regulations.** A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it. Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of \$1 (outside California \$3). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

■ **Complete and sign the following. This will not appear in your ad.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

■ **Deadline:** Third Friday of the month prior to publication.

■ **Figure cost of ad:**

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| _____ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal)   | \$ _____ |
| _____ words at 5¢ (employment only)        | \$ _____ |
| Cost to run ad one month                   | \$ _____ |
| Number of times you want ad to run _____   |          |
| Total cost of ads                          | \$ _____ |
| Phone verification at \$1 (outside CA \$3) | \$ _____ |
| BLK Mailbox at \$5 per month               | \$ _____ |
| One-year subscription at \$18              | \$ _____ |
| Total enclosed (do not send cash)          | \$ _____ |

■ **Return to:** BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083

number and address to: Namiko, 4289 Leimert Blvd. #1, Los Angeles, CA 90008. (15)

Older BM needed for submissive WM. 4322 Central, S.D. 92105. (15)

An attractive Middle-Eastern guy, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, light-brown skin, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for special friendship with a black or Latino guy, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (13)

BiBM, 22, 6'2", 165, college grad, VGL. Interests include communications, books, KDAY, Prince and fast cars. Seeking educated BiBM or GBM, 20-24, smart and sexy, straight act/appearing. Different interests OK. Letter (photo optional) to David. Peace, y'all. BLK Mailbox #18. (13)

Stunning European top, horse hung, seeks slender black bottom. 415-824-6692. (15)

GBM, 27, 5'10", 175 lbs., looking for GBM for good times. Must be fit and honest. Friend or lover. No games please. 213-461-5062. (17)

Lovely professional black TV, 38 bust, would like to meet professional black men, slim, attractive, 30-50, gay or bisexual, masculine, well-hung, think for dinner and dancing and safe clean fun. Call between 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Leave message on business machine. Mya 213-480-0008. (13)

GBM, songwriter: G/P seeks GWM in music industry for possible relationship. 1626 N. Wilcox Ave. #200, Hollywood, CA 90028. (13)

GWM, 26, 5'10", Br/Bl, cute, intelligent, creative, into arts/culture/music, metaphysics, gym, travel seeks muscular/masculine GBM top, 25-35 with similar interests. Photo/phone to: DL, Box 931034, LA 90093. (13)

Black top. Cute white ass. Supportive, watchful wife. Cum. Box 12432, El Cajon, CA 92022-2432. (14)

BM, San Diego, 36, HIV+, trim, 7', seeks versatile, hairy, Mid-Eastern/WM. Romance, affection, growth. BLK Mailbox #16. (14)

GBM, 25, seeks relationship. Send picture. Box 1972, Hollywood 90078. (14)

Goodlooking masculine white guy seeks stable, well-endowed black man for discreet, safe friendship. You are basically straight or bi-, but enjoy a goodlooking hung WM servicing your thick dick (uncut a+). You are sincere and all man. So am I. Age, weight unimportant. Discretion assured. 213-281-6998. (14)

Discreet? Creative? Experimental? Married? Professional 6'3", WM looking for a close straight-appearing friend for quality times, 25-50. Former 15-year friend transferred. Black/Latin/Mideast. Write Robert Belton, Box 741360, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Indicate how to contact you. Time/phone, etc. (14)

Black male seeks black or Hispanic into 1-on-1 relationship. I'm 6'3", 215, 30 years old, masculine and endowed. You are sexually open and no hang-ups and seriously want to belong to a man. If this is you, 25-40, black or Hispanic, moustache, over 6 feet tall, masculine, endowed, attractive and really want it seriously, call 213-758-0182. D.C. (14)

Tall hunky blond bottom seeks thin young stud. Don 213-281-6138. (15)

GWM, 50, 5'11", 155, shaved, FA/GP seeks GBM for a committed relationship. Box 952, Simi, CA 93062. (15)

(HIV+) healthy, in-shape, hairy, WM, 36, 5'9", wants to meet masculine, athletic, black male, 35+. Ron 213-665-1304 (answering machine). (14)

GWM, 6'1", hung, 170, dom., 53, balding, workout. Occupant, Box 4823, North Hollywood, CA 91617. (14)

Prof. WM, 50, wishes to marry Gr/P. 213-273-7335. (14)

Blow-job for in-shape black by attractive WM, 35. 415-338-1189. (13)

VGDL, GBM, 24, 5'9", 160 passionate, intelligent, successful, independent, seeks sexy, commitment-oriented, Latin man. Must be a non-smoker. 213-851-5036. (13)

Attractive GBM, 33, 5'10", 160, top, interested in meeting other GBM only to age 35 who have muscular or well-defined bodies, serious-minded, fun-loving and bottom, for good times and secret rendezvous. Please respond with picture or phone to BLK Mailbox #14. (13)

Very big, muscular, defined guys sought by good-looking GWM, 6', 175, moustache, hairy chested, 42, nice guy, easy-going, new to area, for friendship and safe, discreet, mutually satisfying meetings. 213-913-0259 until 10 p.m. (13)

MWM seeks educated, financially independent BM with 9" or more for man-to-man action. 818-780-1778. (13)

Bi/BM seeks blk top, well-hung. G/P & A/P (me) Box 518, 1770 N. Highland Ave., LA, CA 90028. (13)

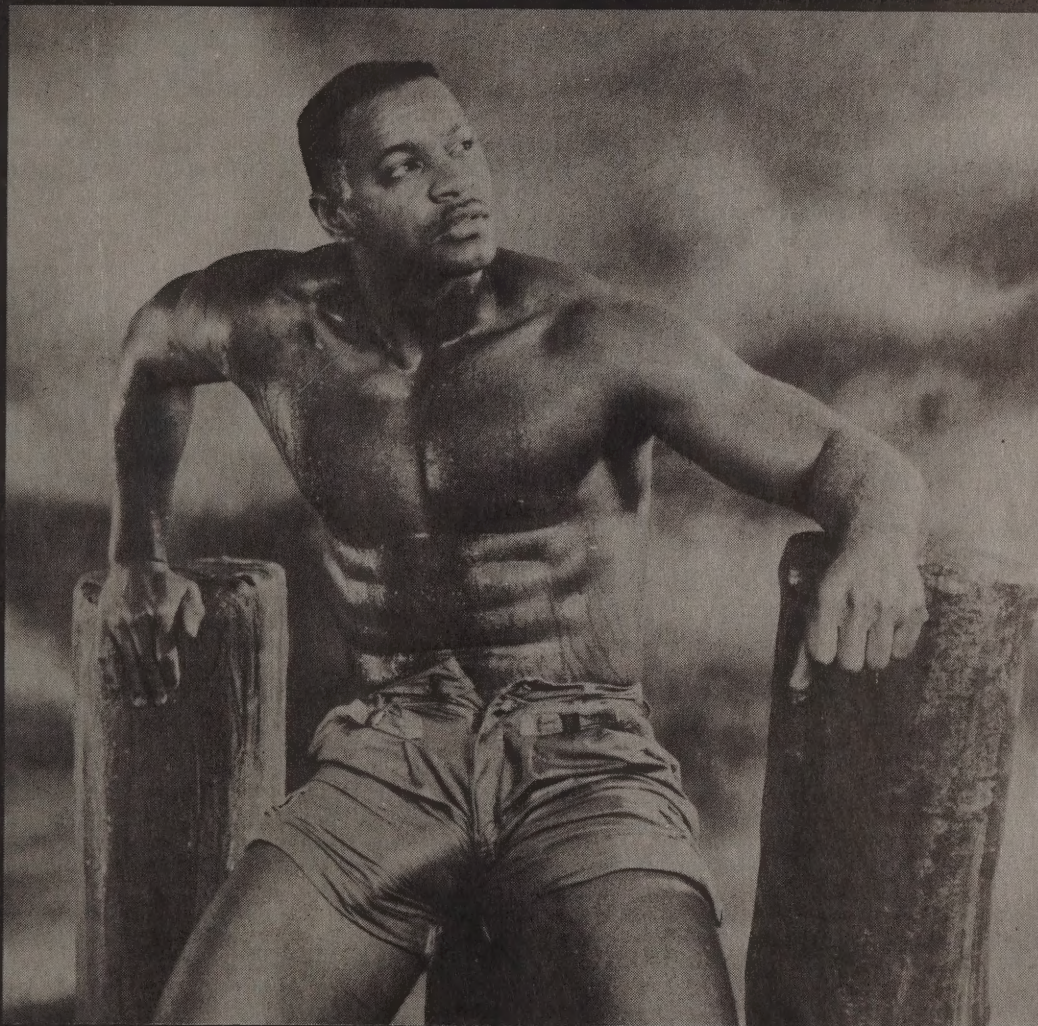
Hot WM, 39, blond/blue, tan, moustache, wants to meet attractive BM, intelligent, sense of humor. Ph/ph to: Box 8107, Glendale, CA 91224. (14)

Are you one in a million? If you are: GBM, BB, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user, honest, work for a living, romantic, also interested in the arts, and sincerely looking for a 1-1 relationship, you are one in a million. This attractive Utah GWM, 5'8", 140, 45 years young professional would love to meet/correspond with you. Call collect: Alan, 801-364-2523. (14)

GWM, 39, masculine. Oral/older GBM. Mike. Box 178194, S.D. 92117. (13)

Commitment: Black male, 38, G/P seeks sincere top man, 40-55, with old-fashioned values. Like 1-to-1, homelife and nature. Any race. Mel 213-656-0258, ext. 22 (answering service) (21)





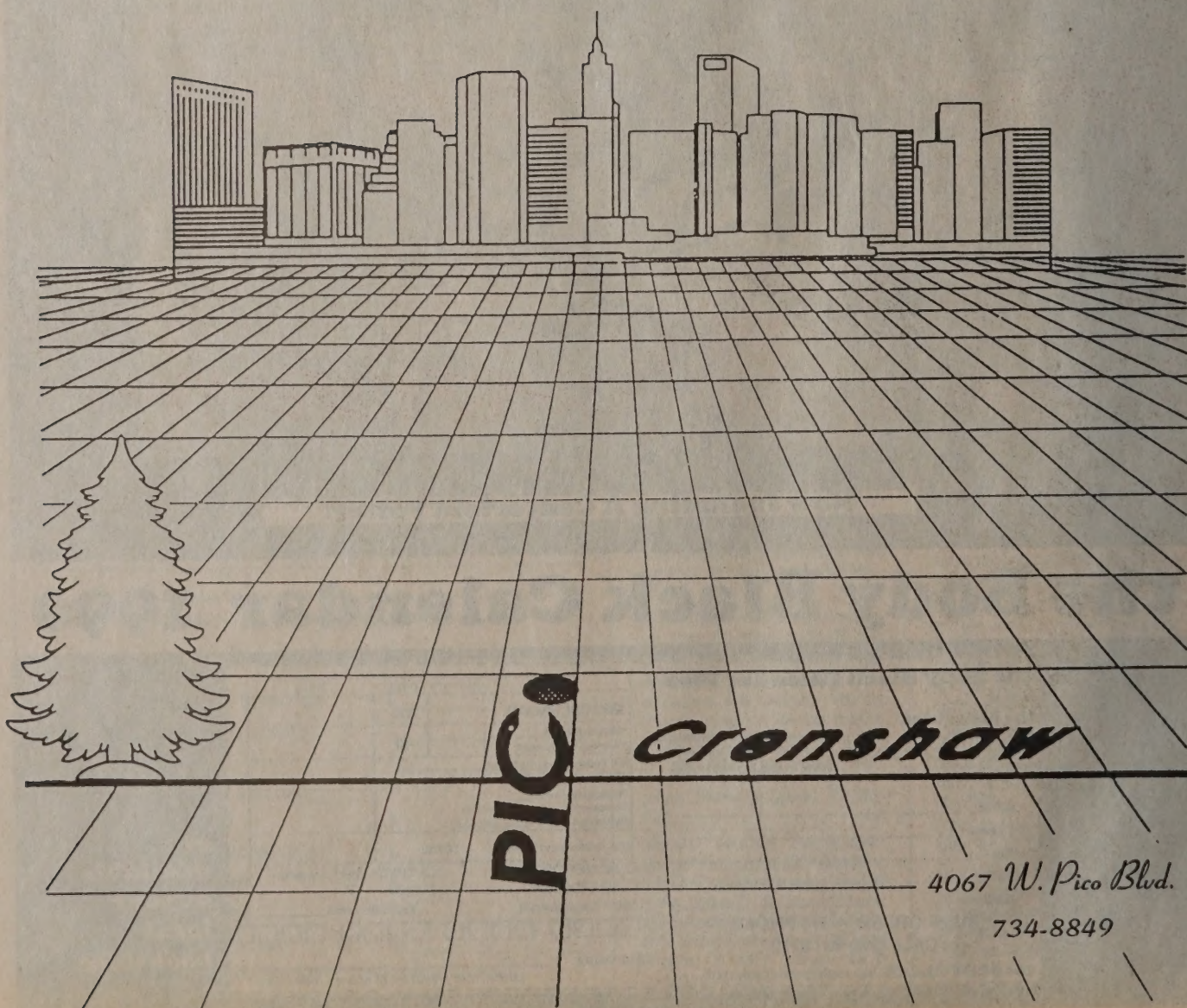
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